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BA draws up emergency plans to beat strike by air crews

By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS was yesterday drawing up emergency plans to keep its 300 aircraft in the air this summer after most of its pilots said they would go ahead with a pay strike from July 16.

Senior BA executives gathered at a hastily arranged board meeting to discuss the crisis as the British Airline Pilots' Association (Balpa) gave the airline until then to come

up with a new offer. A walkout by more than 3,000 BA pilots and first officers, the first since BA was privatised in 1987, could cost the company up to £40 million a day. Balpa leaders said there was a "deep sense of anger and frustration" among BA air crews over the company's refusal to meet its pay demands and gave a warning that the strike would last "as long as it is necessary". Chris Darke, the union's general secretary, predicted that BA would come to a "virtual

stop" when the strike began at 4am on July 16.

A BA spokesman said that, while the airline still hoped to settle the dispute, it had to move quickly to protect passengers. "A strike would be regrettable, in no one's interest and would achieve nothing. Our main concern is with passengers, and we will do all we can to minimise disruption."

Although he refused to give details of BA's contingency plans, they are likely to involve more

intensive use of its 600 non-union pilots. The spokesman did not rule out hiring non-company pilots to fly BA's planes.

He reassured passengers, however, that there would be no compromise on safety. "Flying planes is a pretty technical, professional and expert job, that's why we employ pilots who are the best in the business," he said.

BA normally carries about 100,000 passengers a day, and the strike could spell financial disaster

for the company, which is known as the world's most profitable airline. BA said it would try to rebook passengers on other airlines if it was unable to provide BA seats. If rebooking were not possible, refunds would be paid.

A spokesman for BA Holidays, the airline's tour operator, which caters for 15,000 passengers in July and August, said its customers would be transferred to other carriers wherever possible. People getting married or on honeymoon

would be given priority. The spokesman added that passengers could cancel their holidays without cost up to July 31, and passengers who were delayed while away would have their costs paid.

The dispute is over differences in pay levels between Heathrow pilots and about 300 relatively poorly paid flight crew based at Gatwick. BA pilots, co-pilots and engineers earn an average of £50,000 a year, but Balpa maintains that some flight crew at Gatwick earned as

little as £18,000. The union has rejected an offer of 9 per cent for low-paid pilots at Gatwick on top of the basic 3.6 per cent agreed by other unions in the airline.

Mr Darke said the union was "deeply sorry" for threatening the strike, but blamed BA for the disruption it would cause. "They just don't seem to know how seriously our members feel about this," he said.

Flying the flag, page 41

Carey's moral crusade upsets schools

By ALICE THOMSON AND JOHN O'LEARY

THE Archbishop of Canterbury clashed with teachers last night after launching a crusade to stop the moral and spiritual decline of the nation.

Dr George Carey attacked the tendency to view morality as a matter of taste, and complained that God was being banished to the realm of the private hobby. Children needed to be shown the difference between right and wrong, he said, and spiritual teaching should not be an "add-on extra" to the curriculum.

The Archbishop was supported by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, who said it was vital to heed Dr Carey's warning that Britain was squandering its religious inheritance. "There can be no greater influence for society's good than giving young people an unequivocal moral framework," he said.

But teachers rejected the Archbishop's comments as showing a fundamental misunderstanding of what they were doing. They said schools did a superb job teaching moral values, but their efforts were hampered by other influences — from parents to the Royal Family.

Dr Carey made his remarks in a House of Lords debate on Britain's moral and spiritual wellbeing. He said he wanted to spread his moral message across the country and called

for a partnership between parents, schools, the churches and the Government in bringing about a return to the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Jesus. Children should be given a set of rules for life, as in football, he said.

The Archbishop warned the Government against an education policy that produced only robots for the marketplace, adding: "It would be a failure if our schools were to produce people with the right skills and aptitudes to take on our economic competitors, but who cannot string two sentences together about the meaning and purpose of life or who have no idea what it means to be a good citizen and a moral person."

Senior peers on all sides supported Dr Carey, blaming progressive teaching methods, single-parent families, a dependency culture and a growing materialism for the perceived moral decline. The former Chief Rabbi Lord Jakobovits said: "If our children are raised in a moral vacuum, then an essential ingredient of our civilisation will progressively disappear with incalculable consequences to the stability of our society."

But teachers immediately attacked the Archbishop. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said his com-

ments showed a "fundamental misunderstanding of the work going on in schools to ensure that pupils behave properly and understand the difference between right and wrong. I know of no school that operates a pick-and-mix agenda when it comes to moral behaviour." But he added: "An increasing number of parents do not appear to think it matters unduly whether their children lie or commit criminal offences or engage in antisocial behaviour."

John Durnford, president of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "Schools are oases of morality amidst competing pressures on young people." And Nigel de Gruchy of the National Association of School Masters and Union of Women Teachers said: "Teachers already do far too much preaching; they have to because everyone else has given up. What is needed is a better example from the leaders of society. From the Royal Family downwards, they all proclaim moral principles and then do their own thing."

The Archbishop was supported, however, by Dr Nick Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, who said: "What we need is a clear framework, a widely acknowledged set of moral values."

Lords debate, pages 8 and 9



A gondola provided an unusual form of transport on the Thames at Henley during the Royal Regatta yesterday as earlier rain eased off

Rain clouds sporting events

By JOANNA BAILE

AS RAIN disrupted play at Wimbledon again yesterday, plans were being drawn up for it to over-run into Tuesday for the first time since 1927.

Umpires, staff and caterers were put on standby to work extra days as the London Weather Centre predicted

more rain at the weekend. The tournament was last extended in 1992 when the men's final was held on a Monday.

Conditions at Henley Royal Regatta eased yesterday, producing a series of nail-biting contests.

The rain was partly blamed for the lowest number of spectators at Wimbledon in six

years. But Christopher Gorrington, chief executive, said: "The fact that attendances are only 4.5 per cent down on near-record levels of last year is heartening, considering the weather and two Tube strikes."

Henley, page 49
Wimbledon, pages 50-52

Kuwaiti apostate 'must die'

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A KUWAITI Islamic court has, in effect, sentenced a businessman to death for converting from Islam to Christianity, five years after Christian soldiers rescued Kuwait from the clutches of Saddam Hussein.

Robert Hussein, 44, has been forced to go into hiding after the court ruled that he is an apostate — a Muslim who has left the faith — and Islamic lawyers pronounced that "whoever changes his religion should be killed".

Kuwait has civil as well as Islamic courts and although the constitution guarantees religious freedom, British legal experts acting on Mr Hussein's behalf fear the Kuwaiti Government will merely stand back and allow the Islamic ruling to prevail.

Muslim preachers have issued death threats against Mr Hussein from mosque pulpits, and he fears for his life. Islamic fundamentalists have been encouraged to seek out and kill him in the same way that they have been urged to kill Salman Rushdie after the Iranian fatwa issued by Ayatollah Khomeini.

The traditional method of death for those pronounced guilty of apostasy is by the sword, though he is more likely to be the target of gun attacks. London sources said yesterday: "It is only a matter

of time before someone gets him," a Christian Solidarity International member said.

Members of Walton Baptist Church in Walton-on-Thames in Surrey have campaigned on Mr Hussein's behalf. Stephen Makepeace, a congregation member, has written to British MPs, saying: "Many members of our church have been horrified and outraged to find that a country which their sons and friends were sent to liberate at the risk of their own 'Christian' lives is now persecuting people for turning to God in Jesus' name."

Mr Hussein has been forced to move from safe house to safe house in Kuwait, his wife has been abducted and raped and forced by her family to leave him, he is forbidden to see his two children, and his building business is in ruins.

Paradoxically, he converted because he was such an assiduous reader of the Koran. He abided by a section in Islam's holy book extolling the virtues of some parts of the Bible and

Continued on page 2, col 5

Princess studies divorce papers

The Princess of Wales will spend the weekend poring over a suitcase of papers offering her a divorce.

Anthony Julius, the solicitor acting for her, went to Kensington Palace to present her with the fine print of the Prince of Wales's detailed proposals for a financial settlement. An early response is thought unlikely because of the complexity of the offer, which has been suggested to be worth between £15 million and £20 million. Page 5

Hunt for casket sale suspects

The London art market was speculating about who was to blame for the fate of the St Thomas à Becket chase after attempts to make it safe with a pre-auction purchase failed.

Suspects included Dr Robert Anderson, director of the British Museum, Dr Alan Borg, director of the V&A, and Lord Rothschild, who is director of the National Heritage Lottery and Memorial Funds. Pages 2, 23

Women-first roadside rescues are 'illegal'

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

BREAKDOWN organisations were warned yesterday that they could be breaking the law if they give priority to rescuing lone or pregnant women.

The Equal Opportunities Commission complained to Britannia Rescue after it issued a leaflet advertising a service that put vulnerable women at the top of the queue for assistance. The commission said that it was unfair and possibly illegal to give women preference over men.

Motoring organisations were astonished at the ruling. The plight of lone women drivers in trouble with their cars has become an important target for them. The RAC has even marketed panic buttons, emphasising their usefulness for women who fear they are about to be molested or attacked.

A spokeswoman for Britannia said: "This is taking political correctness a bit too far. We don't think giving vulnerable women preference is dis-

crimatory... and I am sure most men would not mind if they thought their wives or daughters were being looked after."

The RAC, which has also been cautioned by the commission for running women-only maintenance classes, said it would not back down over its priority system. "We defend our right to give women priority for their safety and the police agree with us," a spokesman said.

However, the commission was firm that the Sex Discrimination Act made it unlawful to offer a better service to one sex over another. A spokeswoman said: "A man could sue if he could prove he had suffered from this policy. We know it is a sensitive issue and we have tried to take this into account."

The AA said it tried to judge each case on merit. "We will look at anyone who feels vulnerable," a spokesman said.

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PLUS
DID BRITAIN
BETRAY
HITLER'S
ENEMIES?
By Germany's
most eminent
historianMajor accuses Blair over
'grubby' Scotland policy

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JOHN MAJOR accused Tony Blair yesterday of "grubbing around for votes" with Labour's plans for a Scottish parliament and gave a warning that the move would cost thousands of jobs.

In the first appearance by a Prime Minister at the Scottish Grand Committee, Mr Major made an impassioned plea to Scottish voters to reject plans for a tax-raising parliament. He seized on yesterday's announcement that a thousand jobs will be created in Lanarkshire by a Taiwanese company, claiming that such investment would be destroyed by devolution.

The town's £40 million investment by Lite-On Technology Corporation, the world's fifth largest computer monitor manufacturer, was the result of the low taxes in Britain, Mr Major said. "What I can see

IN AN attempt to show solidarity with Scotland's hard-pressed beef farmers, the Prime Minister made a diplomatic purchase of sirloin steak yesterday. But it was Norma, his wife, who ended up paying the price of the photo-opportunity. Mr Major, on a short walkabout in Dalbeattie, disappeared into a butcher's shop, cameramen in tow. After chatting to staff, Mr Major, who is partial to steak and chips, chose a 3lb 8oz quality Scottish sirloin for £16.96. But when it came to paying, he looked imploringly at his wife. Mrs Major produced a £20 note.

beyond any doubt is that inward investment would not be here if you have an extra layer of bureaucracy and an extra layer of decisions here in Scotland. Why would they come to Scotland if their workers were more highly taxed and therefore they would have to pay higher wages?"

The Prime Minister's claim that jobs would be destroyed were dismissed by George Robertson, Labour's Shadow Scottish Secretary, who ar-

gued that overseas companies were aware of the likelihood of a Scottish parliament and were not deterred from investing in Scotland.

Mr Major faced dozens of pro-devolution MPs during a meeting of the Scottish Grand Committee in Dundee. It is the first time since the committee was formed in 1987 that a Prime Minister has given evidence and follows last year's decision by the Government to allow the committee to question senior Cabinet minis-

ters at various venues around Scotland.

Using some of his most passionate language on the issue of devolution, Mr Major said that the union and the United Kingdom was a birthright beyond value. It should not be diminished by people grubbing around for votes.

Most of the 72 Labour MPs were present in the huge Easterbrook Hall. Mr Major was constantly interrupted by Labour, and Scottish Nationalist and Liberal Democrat MPs and was heckled from the public gallery.

Several MPs were dismissive of Mr Major's announcement this week that the Stone of Scone will be returned to Scotland. Mr Robertson said: "We are going to be bought off by symbols of ancient power. We want the power to control our own domestic powers within the UK and we won't settle for anything less."

Knives out for
culprit in
auction of
Becket casket

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE search was on yesterday for someone to blame for the fate of the St Thomas à Becket chasse, sold to an unknown private collector.

The art market put a parade of figures in the dock. They included Dr Robert Anderson, director of the British Museum, Dr Alan Borg, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, and Lord Rothschild, director of the National Heritage Lottery and memorial funds.

Their attempts to secure the 12th-century Limoges casket for the nation with a pre-auction purchase failed when it was knocked down for £4.18 million on Thursday.

Also in the dock yesterday was Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary. Her telephone call and letter to Sotheby's, telling them that their export licence was to be varied so that the casket could not be exported without an application to her, arrived minutes after the piece had been sold.

Heritage enthusiasts asked why she had not acted earlier. "The timing was deliberate," her spokesman said. "Earlier intervention would have affected the sale price, but that would have been unfair to the vendor."

Sarah Fogg, the manuscripts dealer who represented the buyer at the sale, refused to disclose his client. He is known to have acted previously for the Getty Museum, which was unable to purchase Canova's statue *The Three Graces* after a national outcry.

The London art world remains convinced, however, that the chase was bought by David Thomson, or his father, Lord Thomson of Fleet, chairman of the Thomson Corporation and a former proprietor of *The Times*. Both attended the sale, but they did not bid in person.

Mr Fogg also bid successfully for a Romanesque gilt bronze candlestick base, which went for £4.4 million. Sotheby's said yesterday that he had been acting on behalf of two different purchasers.

Not very different, informed sources in the art world think. They favour the theory that Mr Thomson bought the Becket casket and his father the candlestick base, or possibly the other way around.

Mr Fogg, known to have represented Mr Thomson previously, denied that he was acting for either Thomson, but the millionaires could have been buying through family trusts or companies.

Both men are magpie collectors, though David's eye is said to be more eclectic, international and discriminating than his father's.

Lord Thomson started collecting avidly in the 1960s. As a beginner he bought things that he considered bargains, but his tastes became sophisticated after he befriended the London dealer Herman Beer. David Thomson is renowned in the art world for having both a natural eye and a retentive memory.

Letters, page 23



Robert Hussein who converted to Christianity

Kuwaiti 'must die'

Continued from page 1
urging people to read it. Kuwait's constitution guarantees "absolute freedom" of religion, but Islamic lawyers there insisted on trying him in a Shari'ah court for apostasy, a serious crime under Sharia Islamic law. Mr Hussein was sentenced on June 9 and given 28 days to appeal. After a deluge of protests, including thousands from Christians in Britain to the Kuwaiti Ambassador in London, he was given leave this week to appeal to a civil court, which will hear his case in September.

In the Islamic court appearance, lasting less than a minute, Mr Hussein was declared an official apostate from Islam. He was not allowed to speak, was automatically divorced from his wife, legally

forbidden to see his children, and stripped of his civil rights. He cannot use his passport.

After Muslim leaders called for his blood for "insulting Islam", Mr Hussein's house was ransacked.

Franklin Evans, a British lawyer who visited Mr Hussein in hiding last week, said: "He looked clinically depressed to me, smoking continually. He has lost weight. He is devastated because his children have been taken from him."

A Kuwaiti government spokesman denied Mr Hussein had reason to fear, for his life, but said: "If he is touched or harmed those who touch or harm him would be taken and punished."

Leading article, page 23

Anthrax confirmed
on Wiltshire farm

Anthrax, the virulent bacterial disease, has been confirmed in two cows on a farm near Westbury, Wiltshire, the Ministry of Agriculture disclosed yesterday. The farm, which has not been identified, is three miles downstream from a disused tannery where local people say infected hides were buried more than 30 years ago. The site has been earmarked for a housing development. "It is thought that the farmer may have brought anthrax spores to the surface while digging a field close to the river bank," a Ministry spokesman said. "Spores can stay active in the soil for many years."

£67,000 fishing fine

Hallfend, Spanish owner of the trawler *Mount Eden*, was banned from fishing for four months and fined £67,500, with £2,000 costs, for breaking fish conservation rules. It admitted grossly over-fishing its quota of monkfish and megrim. Exeter Crown Court was told that the trawler was stopped twice last September and found on each occasion to have exceeded its entire monthly quota.

Drink-drive cheats jailed

A doctor was jailed yesterday for issuing a bogus blood-sample certificate to try to help an old friend escape a drink-drive charge. Dr Godfrey Lutay, 48, a former RAF pathologist, of Wandsworth, south-west London, was sentenced to three months for trying to pervert the course of justice. The man he helped, Ricky Scendagire, 49, a biochemist from Wembley, was also jailed for three months.

'Bible John' suspect

The man police believed to be "Bible John", the Scottish serial killer, has been comprehensively cleared of murder. Strathclyde police exhumed the body of John Irvine McInnes on February 1. McInnes, who committed suicide in 1980 aged 41, was the prime suspect in the murder of three women in Glasgow in the 1960s. However, DNA tests and teeth marks have failed to link him to the killings.

'Gunman' imprisoned

A man who threatened to shoot a shopkeeper with a plastic toy gun from his computer game system was jailed for two years at the Old Bailey yesterday. Victor Collins, 31, went home to get his black laser pistol gun after being told he could not use the telephone in Jays grocery shop in Abbott Road, Poplar, east London. He had previous convictions for robbery with an imitation firearm.

Gulf War broker cleared

A shipping broker was cleared of swindling the Ministry of Defence out of nearly £2 million during the Gulf War. William Layzell-Smith, 58, a director with brokers John Good and Sons (London), was accused of hiding the true cost of hiring roll-on, roll-off ferries while British forces risked their lives. Southwark Crown Court acquitted him of fraudulent trading between October 1990 and July 1991.

Fire claim fraudulent

The directors of what was once Guernsey's premier hotel were ordered yesterday to repay more than £1 million to their insurers after a judge ruled that a claim after three suspicious fires was fraudulent. The sum, plus costs, was awarded to The Royal Insurance company, of Liverpool, at the High Court, against the Royal Hotel. It has stood empty for four years, since the last fire.

Lack of Cruise control

The arrival of one of the world's largest warships at Dublin has appalled residents fighting to keep Ireland neutral but delighted Irish women in search of their own version of Tom Cruise. Thousands are flocking to see the 5,000 crew of the aircraft carrier *USS John F Kennedy* this weekend. Some discos have asked young women to control their behaviour.

Tenors' empty seats

More than 4,000 tickets out of 55,000 for the Three Tenors performance tonight at Wembley Stadium were still unsold yesterday because of the high asking prices of £350, £310, and £160. Cheaper tickets went quickly at £35 to £110. The concert was expected to gross some £7.5 million. Among those in attendance will be the Prime Minister and his wife Norma.

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Judge orders wife to rein in her Olympic spending

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A MOTHER who has spent hundreds of thousands of pounds trying further her daughter's Olympic equestrian ambitions was told by a judge yesterday to rein in her indulgent spending. He also gave her some advice on how to economise.

Diane McGeoch, estranged wife of the retail tycoon Lennie McGeoch, had gone to court pleading poverty in an attempt to gain £19,000 from her husband's estate to tide her over until their divorce is finalised next year. She is seeking a final settlement of £8 million plus £15,000 a month.

The Court of Session in Edinburgh was told that Mr McGeoch, 55, a director of the soft furnishings shops Mackays and one of Britain's 50 richest people with a fortune estimated to be £400 million, had been living beyond his means. His wife and three daughters, Laura, Pamela and Julie, who live in Connecticut for most of the year, spent up to £700,000 a year and Mr McGeoch now had to cut back on his daughter's equestrian activities.

Anne Smith, QC, Mrs McGeoch's counsel, said that her client's monthly allowance had been cut from £20,000 (£13,000) a month to £11,000 by her husband after he became involved with another

woman. Sixteen-year-old Julie's dreams of Olympic stardom were being jeopardised, she said.

Mrs Smith told Lord Penrose, presiding, that it now cost £287,000 a year for Julie to compete in her sport. Mrs McGeoch had spent £272,500 on four horses for her daughter in one year. They had attended ten major horse trials in America, staying in luxury hotels that cost £10,000 a week. Mr McGeoch had set up an £80,000-a-year trust fund to pay for Julie's horses, but Mrs Smith said that was not enough. Experts believed Julie had Olympic potential.

She said Mr McGeoch had initially encouraged Julie. He had bought 14 horses for his three daughters in 1985/86. "He started Julie on the road and has made a stick for his own back or a crop for his own hide. It is a commitment to which he has bound himself."

William Nimmo Smith, QC, for Mr McGeoch, said his client could no longer afford the equestrian fees. "In any family there could come a time when cuts have to be made, even where past extravagances have raised a child's expectations," he told the court. In 1993 Mr McGeoch had spent £700,000 when he lived with his family in Connecticut before one cent was

spent on his daughter's horses. In the same year he spent £450,000 refurbishing the family's Glasgow home.

The family has five houses, including homes in London, Manhattan and Aviemore. When his daughter Laura turned 16 Mr McGeoch gave her a BMW car with stereo and telephone. Mrs McGeoch spent £4,800 a year on beauty treatments, £7,000 on eating out, £9,000 on clothes, and £20,000 on food.

Mr Nimmo Smith said that last year his income was £267,000 but after spending on his family, he had only £30,000 left for his personal use. Mr McGeoch was willing to pay a total of £13,750 a month in alimony for wife and daughter on top of about £64,500 from the trust fund set up for his daughters over 20 years ago.

Lord Penrose awarded a reduced interim sum of £8,000 for Mrs McGeoch and £3,500 for Julie. He said that when they were a family their lifestyle was characterised by self-indulgence and indulgence of their children. He suggested cutbacks. The money could be used more "flexibly" to fund the equestrian activities.

Mrs McGeoch immediately appealed. The full divorce hearing is expected to take place in May next year.



Margaret Crump outside Clifton College: said that her P45 arrived less than a fortnight before the new term without a letter of explanation

Timetable alerted teacher to her dismissal

By David Charter

A LEADING independent school yesterday agreed to pay a substantial sum to a teacher who realised she was sacked only when she found her name missing from the timetable.

Margaret Crump said she felt humiliated by her treatment from senior staff at Clifton College, Bristol, where she taught art for 14 years. An industrial tribunal in Bristol heard that Mrs Crump, 46, lost her job after a personality clash with her new head of department. The tribunal accepted

Mrs Crump's claims of unfair dismissal and breach of contract after hearing that, at the end of the summer term last year, she found a copy of the teaching rota for autumn 1995 which omitted her name. She was preparing to return after the summer break when, less than a fortnight before the term, her P45 arrived without any explanation.

A settlement, thought to be in excess of £20,000, was agreed before the tribunal reconvened yesterday. An 11-page report said the sacking procedure was "badly flawed". It criticised

teachers' evidence as "lacking credibility" and "evasive". No direct mention had been made to Mrs Crump that she was going to lose her job, although she had earlier been sent details of the school's redundancy arrangements.

The tribunal said there was a clear personality clash between Mrs Crump and Jonathan Macfarlane, her head of department. He rejected her for the new post of assistant director of the art department and appointed an acquaintance, bypassing the interview process taken by Mrs Crump.

Mrs Crump said Mr Macfarlane

criticised her in front of pupils. "I put up with the way they treated me for months because I loved teaching and I loved the pupils," she added. "There was never any mention of my losing my job and I thought the way I found out was very shabby indeed."

Hugh Monro, the headmaster, said: "It is disappointing that the tribunal found against the school. But in the interests of the pupils and the school, it has been decided not to take the case further."

Mrs Crump now manages a pottery and ceramics shop in Bristol.

Unfaithful lover was knifed and scalded

By Stephen Farrell

A PREGNANT social worker who attacked her unfaithful lover with a hammer, knife and scalding coffee during a five-hour ordeal walked free from court yesterday. Gaynor De-Cordova, 31, was placed on probation for two years after an Old Bailey judge was told that Gerald O'Connell, 48, taunted her with his infidelity and called her Madame Stupid.

De-Cordova invited O'Connell, a businessman, to her flat in August last year to discuss his intention of leaving her for a former girlfriend. When he arrived she made two cups of coffee, poured one over his head and threw a kettle at him, shouting "You are never going to get out of here alive."

She threatened to make sure that he could never have sex again. O'Connell, from Waltham, Essex, tried to leave but found the door locked and ran into the bathroom. Sean Larkin, for the prosecution, said: "He was hit on the head and on the arm by the water. He felt his skin peeling off. She came at him with the hammer but he locked the bathroom door."

Over the next few hours De-Cordova seemed to calm down periodically, bandaging his wounds and apologising. But she repeatedly flared up



De-Cordova: kept up attack for five hours

again, attacking him with a hammer in one hand while lunging at his groin with a steak knife in the other.

He suffered a stab wound to his thigh, burns to the top of his head, a severe 12 in burn to his left arm, a black eye and a bruised cheek.

Vera Baird, representing De-Cordova, said: "She felt cheated and deceived. She did not believe his story that he had just bumped into his former girlfriend. She knew she lived in Paris and he in Essex. She wanted him to explain himself properly and tell her the truth. This is the only time in 31 years this lady has been violent."

Judge Ian Davies told De-Cordova, who admitted causing grievous bodily harm: "You were under intolerable pressure from a number of different sources, you were also pregnant. This offence is so serious it would normally warrant a custodial sentence but the facts are so exceptional I feel able to make a probation order."

Mechanic linked to road rage death car

By Stewart Tandler

A CAR mechanic appeared in court yesterday accused of handling a stolen Land Rover Discovery linked to the M25 "road rage" murder.

Terry Hole, 45, of West Kingsdown, Kent, was remanded in custody for three days by Dartford magistrates accused of handling a Discovery stolen in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, in February 1995.

Mr Hole is alleged to have sold a Discovery registered as L794 JTF to a man called Anthony Francis.

Police investigating the stabbing of Stephen Cameron on the M25 want to trace a Discovery with that index number and the owner, registered as Anthony Francis.

They also want to question Kenneth Noye, who was cleared of murdering an undercover policeman at his house in West Kingsdown during investigations into the £26 million Brink's-Mat bullion robbery. Noye, who once used the alias Anthony Francis to buy a house, vanished the day after Mr Cameron's murder. Earlier this week Kent officers questioned John "Goldfinger" Palmer, a multi-millionaire and friend of Noye, about his whereabouts.

Mr Hole is also accused of handling a stolen Peugeot. No application for bail was made.

Your husband isn't at the office. He's in jail for fraud

By Adrian Lee

AN ESTATE agent hid the shame of his business fraud from his wife for almost two years and through four court appearances. Yesterday, when she was expecting him home from work, it was left to a probation officer to explain he had just been jailed.

Judge Roger Scott told Derek Clarke, 51, a father of two who was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment: "It is very sad that the sentence will come as an absolute thunderbolt to your family."

Clarke, who ran the KDF estate agency in Chilton, Co Durham, "fell into the black hole of debt" during the property slump and turned to crime. Rod Hunt, for the defence, told Teesside Crown Court. But he could not bear to tell his wife, Carol. "He buries his head in the sands over his business and his wife."

Judith Garbutt, a probation officer who compiled reports, said: "I was unable to persuade him to tell her. She thinks he is out on business. She had been promoted at work at the time he was charged and he felt she had enough stress to deal with."

Clarke admitted dishonestly

procuring £22,000 from a building society and three counts of theft involving £3,700 in rent money which should have gone to repay mortgages.

The judge said Clarke should have confided in his wife. "The impact on your family will be extremely severe, but these were mean and despicable offences."

"What you should have done is gone to a solicitor because you were, in effect, bankrupt. Your wife and children are going to be hurt by what you have done and by the knowledge that you did not have the courage, decency and trust in your wife to stand by you to tell her."

Clarke's barrister said his client was not a conman and had hoped to repay the money when the property market recovered. He had started the business in 1990 and, in addition to the slump, suffered when a partner decamped, leaving him alone with debts. He was a man of previous good character.

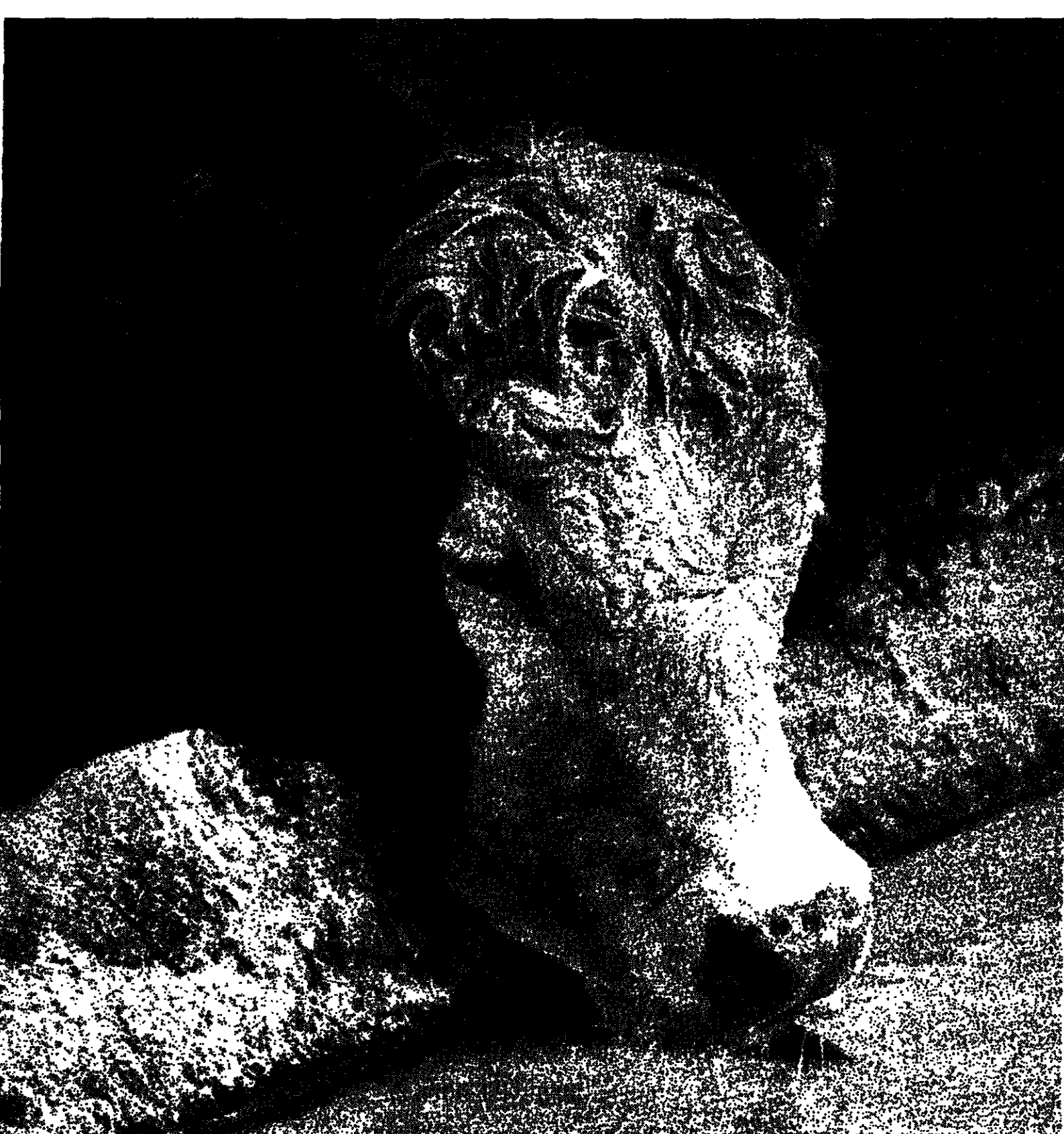
The court heard that in one instance, Clarke collected rent on behalf of a client who was abroad, but the money was

never passed on to a building society to pay the mortgage on the property. Another house was repossessed when rents due were not paid by Clarke.

After the case, Mrs Garbutt contacted Mrs Clarke to break the news. A spokesman for the probation service said: "Mrs Clarke is now aware of what has happened. We cannot say how she reacted. That is a private matter."

Mrs Clarke, a supermarket manageress, later refused to comment at the family's semi-detached home in Middlesbrough village, near Spennymoor. A neighbour said that the couple lived a respectable family life with their children Gary, aged about ten, and Gemma, in her mid-teens.

Mr Clarke drove an estate car, wore smart suits to work and was a DIY enthusiast who was frequently seen improving his house. The family rarely went on holiday. The neighbour said: "I knew nothing of this. I don't know how his wife will take it. They have been very good neighbours and this does not change my opinion of him. I can't believe it."



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Charles Dickens, a quote from "David Copperfield"

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Solicitor struggles to Kensington Palace bearing Prince's weighty terms for divorce

Princess hopes for happy ending to weekend read

BY ALAN HAMILTON
AND FRANCES GIBB

THE Princess of Wales will spend this weekend poring over a mass of carefully crafted papers offering her a full and final divorce from 15 years of turbulent marriage.

Anthony Julius, the solicitor handling her divorce, went to Kensington Palace yesterday to present her with the fine print of the Prince of Wales's immensely detailed proposals for a financial settlement. If the Princess agrees, a decree nisi could be granted before the end of this month. There was no indication yesterday, either from Mr Julius or the Princess's spokeswoman, of what she thought of the offer, whose value, the subject of speculation, has been put at between £15 and £20 million. Such is the weight of detail to be considered that an early announcement of acceptance or rejection is thought unlikely.

The Prince of Wales, who was in residence at Highgrove, gave his assent shortly after 6.15 on Thursday evening that the offer be conveyed to the enemy camp. Although the respective solicitors' offices were by that time closed for the day, an assistant solicitor from the Lincoln's Inn offices of Farrer and Co, where Fiona Shackleton represents the Princess, struggled round the corner bearing the bundle



Fiona Shackleton, solicitor to the Princess, an assistant struggled to the Princess's lawyers bearing the bundle as discreetly as possible

as discreetly as possible to the nearby Southampton Row offices of Mishcon de Reya, where Mr Julius represents the prince.

Any final agreement is almost certain to include a "gagging clause" which will prevent the Princess from giving interviews or writing books in which intimate details of her marriage, or secrets she has learnt in her 15 years in the

spotlight, might be disclosed. The Prince is thought agreeable to being bound by a similar promise.

The Princess's agreement to such a condition would be a major disappointment to television stations throughout the world who would be ready to offer huge fees for interviews like that recorded for *Panorama* last November. Lawyers for the prince will have gone to

considerable lengths to work out how, in the event of a once-and-for-all settlement, the princess could be held to a confidentiality clause.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, were heavily involved in the talks about the divorce. Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, was also a key figure behind the scenes.

The couple's separation was formally announced by the Prime Minister in December 1992. With no firm facts available on the details of yesterday's offer, speculation has shifted to the timing of a divorce announcement. Some favour Monday, the day before President Mandela begins a four-day state visit to London. Buckingham Palace denies any connection between the

two events but the Queen is deeply anxious that a visit by one of the statesmen she most admires should not be subject to distractions.

It is thought likelier that any announcement will be delayed until after Mr Mandela's departure, not least because each side has instructed a pair of eminent barristers who will not wish such a historic case to be concluded too hastily.

Last night, Downing Street reiterated that a divorced princess could not expect any official ambassadorial role — which in truth she never sought — and that any overseas tours would be strictly on behalf of whatever charity she was acting for at the time.

If, as expected, the Prince is offering a clean-break deal, he will need outside financial help, as a man with a generous income but no assets to speak of. His annual after-tax income from the Duchy of Cornwall, which last year amounted to £3.9 million, is nowhere near sufficient to fund the substantial lump-sum payment thought to be required to satisfy the Princess.

The Queen, given the precedent of her other children's divorces, is expected to step in with some financial help. However, the Prince may have to raise the balance by following the example of forebears similarly strapped for cash and take out a bank loan.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

OUT TO LUNCH



Bob Woodward, the celebrated reporter, continues his compelling account of how the Clintons embraced New Age solutions to tackle mounting problems at the White House

News Review, *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

Legal teams labour over the fine print

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE three top Queen's Counsel and one other senior barrister brought in to advise on the royal divorce settlement are playing a crucial role in ensuring any proposals are "court proof" should they end up before a judge.

They are also guided by what a court would award in the highly unlikely event of the settlement ending in litigation.

Barristers are frequently involved in complex divorce negotiations but it is highly unusual for two QCs to be instructed by one side, as is the case with the Prince of Wales.

On his side, Robert Seabrook, QC, a former Bar chairman, and Florence Baron, QC, have been instructed by Fiona Shackleton, the Princess's divorce solicitor, to draft documents and advise on the whole range of matters from pension arrangements to children and property.

On the Princess's side, Anthony Julius, her solicitor, has brought in Christopher McCall, QC, a top Chancery silk, and Nicholas Mostyn, a matrimonial specialist, who will now go through the documents with a fine comb.

The QCs, who are likely to be on a retained fee each of £2,000 a day, would have drawn up the proposals with an eye on previous rulings by courts in matrimonial settlements, while bearing in mind the exceptional nature of this particular break-up.

Their job is to ensure the wording cannot give rise to ambiguity and to look at documents from the point of view of a court. They also bring a fresh and more detached perspective to bear after solicitors have been involved for many months.

The breakthrough which saw the delivery of proposals on Thursday night from Farrer & Co, the Princess's solicitors, to Mishcon de Reya, lawyers for the Prince, came after a bout of intense legal work.

The Prince's lawyers have hammered out the deal through round-table meetings



Julius, solicitor for the Princess

attended by all parties and advisers as well as in smaller groups, working into the evening and at weekends on occasions.

While Mrs Shackleton was in charge of the whole operation, Mr Seabrook would have taken chair at meetings as leading counsel. The deal has covered every aspect, from succession rights to the occupation of Kensington Palace.

Mr Seabrook has a niche practice in matrimonial work although he is mainly known for his professional negligence work. He is highly rated for his advocacy and cross-examination skills and his persuasive charm. One solicitor said: "He has a very good manner with clients, and he also goes down extremely well with judges."

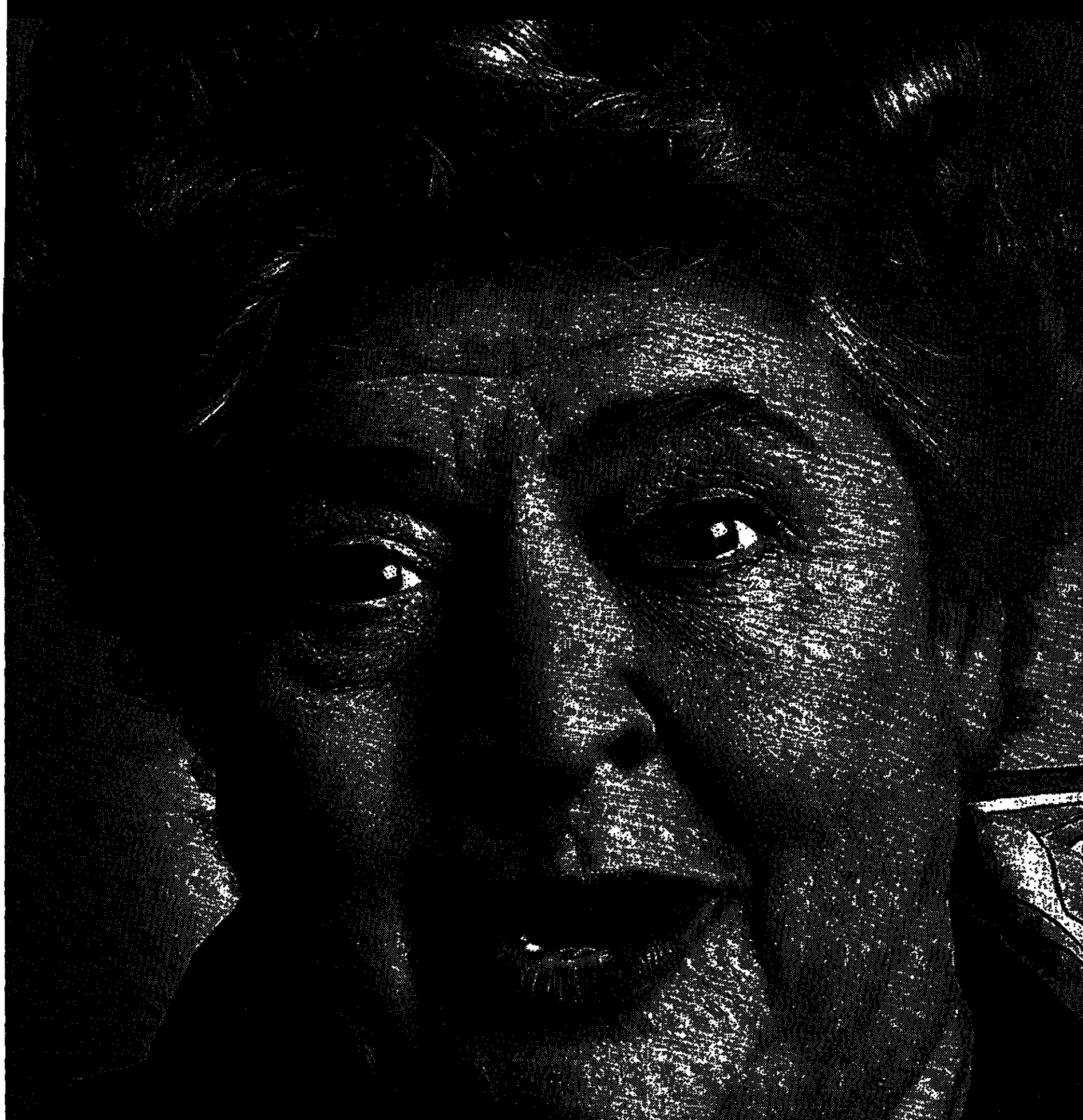
He made headlines in his year as leader of the profession in 1994 by announcing a review of its restrictive practices.

Miss Baron, 43, is regarded as one of the first-rate silks at the matrimonial Bar. If Mr Seabrook has advised on the strategy of the settlement, the broad overview and the property aspects, she has handled the financial detail. Ivor Traherne, her clerk, said: "She has a forceful, no-nonsense approach but also a great sense of humour."

On the other side, Mr McCall is a specialist in charities and pensions work. He took silk in 1987 and has acted for the Treasury Solicitor in Chancery matters.

Nicholas Mostyn, the second top barrister on the Princess's side, is a matrimonial finance specialist. He is a particular expert on the Child Support Agency (on which he has written a book) as well as pensions-splitting. It will fall now to him and Mr McCall to study the settlement offer and decide if it is acceptable.

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JP 11/11/90

Judge blocks attempt to cut care for disabled child

By Ian Murray

A COUNCIL'S attempt to save money by cutting care for a disabled child was blocked by the High Court yesterday. Staffordshire County Council was told it must pay annual fees of £10,800 to send Harriet Jackson, 4, from Lichfield to a specialist institute instead of a £6,900-a-year nursery.

Mr Justice Collins said the county's case was "pretty hopeless". The authority had failed to prove that cheaper care would provide all the child's needs. Keeping her at the more expensive unit should make it possible to move her into mainstream schooling sooner, saving money in the long term. He awarded the parents all their costs.

Harriet's mother, Charlotte, said the ruling was "a great victory, not only for parents of special-needs children but for common sense as well." She



Harriet's parents yesterday. Charlotte Jackson said: "These grey council people have no compassion at all."

added: "We have been through three years of hell. I have two seriously disabled children but our worst times have been fighting these grey council people who have no compassion at all."

"I just hope this makes them think twice before they put any other parents through the hell we have been through." Her

husband, Philip, said that if they had lost the case they would have been bankrupted. "We have been struggling up to now to raise the money for Harriet's fees and to help her sister. The legal costs would have totally destroyed us."

Nicholas Bowen, their counsel, told the court that Harriet was a "child who is intel-

lectually complete, locked in a body which would not work". Born two months prematurely at 2lb 2oz, she was the finest of triplets. One sister died and the other, Rebecca, suffers from cerebral palsy.

Harriet, described in court papers as a "bright, sociable, strong-willed girl with an extensive vocabulary and above-average cognitive skills", has quadriplegic cerebral palsy. She has severe mobility problems and is able to move about only by rolling or crawling.

In September 1993 her parents sent her at their own expense to the Birmingham Institute of Conductive Education, where she received five hours of training five days a week. Four out of five children at the institute go into mainstream education, compared with only one in three who attend the nursery. Harriet is expected to transfer within three years.

Zoo turns away mentally handicapped group

By Dominic Kennedy

LORD RIX, the chairman of Mencap, expressed outrage yesterday that a party of six mentally handicapped people had been barred from a zoo because it was said they might alarm the animals.

The group, aged 25 to 48, three of them in wheelchairs, were on a week's trip from the Midlands to the Isle of Wight. A highlight was to be a visit to the private zoo at Sandown, but they were turned away by the owner, Angie Donaghy.

their carer, said: "We have visited zoos before and there has never been a problem. We do look after people with severe learning difficulties, and they can be a bit noisy and rowdy, but so are children and they are allowed in."

The zoo's owner, Jack Corney, said: "I explained the situation sympathetically. The adults were severely mentally disabled and I was very concerned that they may alarm the animals. One of the adults even had a violent fit while I was speaking to the carer and was trying to bite. It took

two people to control him. All of the animals, but particularly the primates and big cats, can be very sensitive to human behaviour. Nobody but an idiot would have allowed them in. I wouldn't let someone in who turned up drunk."

Miss Donaghy has complained to the island's tourist office. Lord Rix pointed out that the Disability Discrimination Act comes into force in November. "I am appalled and amazed and angry. We can't do anything about it because the Act is not yet in force."

Parents bearing greater share of university fees

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

PARENTS are increasingly picking up the bill for their children's university education, a survey of the rising levels of student debt disclosed yesterday.

Undergraduates are more likely than ever to have a part-time job but more than one in three admits the main source of income is their parents.

The annual survey by Barclays Bank found students had an average debt of £1,962, a 32 per cent increase on last year, with undergraduates expecting to owe £3,021 by the end of their course. But very little of this was said to be owed to parents, suggesting students did not expect to pay them back. The findings were seized on by students and universities as evidence of the urgent need to reform the funding of higher education.

Student expenditure is estimated at £5,150 a year in London and £4,145 outside. In

October, the London grant will be £2,105 and loan £2,035, while elsewhere the grant will be £1,710 and the loan £1,645.

Vice-chancellors, who are threatening to charge students a £300 signing-on fee if government cuts are not restored, said they were concerned that students were spending more time working for money and less time studying.

Nearly 1,500 students were interviewed at 16 universities for the survey. Students were also contributing more through their own endeavours. They save an average of £1,074 each before starting their degree and one in three has a part-time job.

Mathematics and science students owe the most money, an average of £2,263, which researchers speculated was because of their greater earning potential on graduation.

Student travel, page 33



Le Pin 1985. One dozen bottles sold for £9,020 in May 1996

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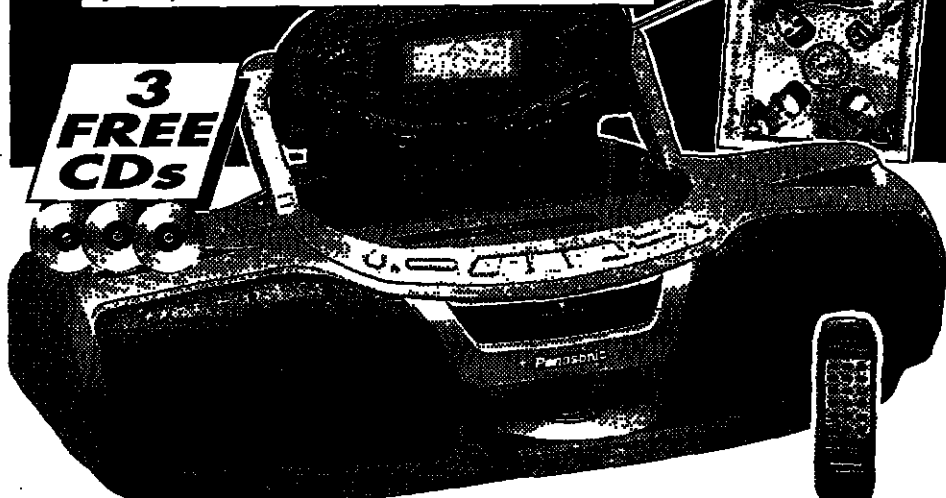
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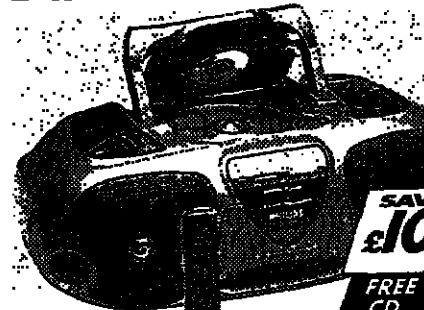


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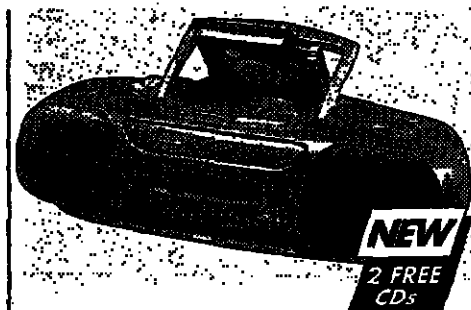


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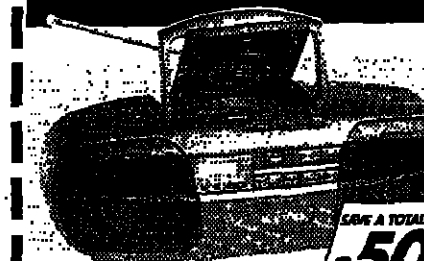
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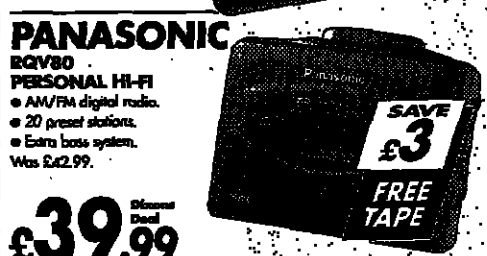


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Man who wants schools to focus on right and wrong

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS and parents share the concerns over young people's spiritual and moral values expressed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, government advisers said yesterday. But they are unsure about how to take a lead.

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, whose chief executive, Nicholas Tate, prompted Dr Carey's interest, issued a summary of the ideas being considered by a series of expert groups advising on guidance to schools. Almost 200 people from business, the media, environmentalists, the law, social services and religious groups, are helping to draw up modern "commandments" for schools.

Among the proposals are a greater emphasis on spiritual and moral development in teacher training and a national review of personal and social education in schools. A SCAA conference held at the start of the year concluded that the lessons, which are part of the curriculum in almost all schools, lack rigour and often do not focus on issues relevant to young people.

The authority is aiming to produce guidance for the start of the next school year. The ten

groups, each intended to bring a different perspective to the moral debate, will hold their final meetings before the end of the month.

Officials from the authority are also discussing personal and moral development with pupils in the course of their visits to schools. A spokeswoman said that children of all ages would have their views considered when the guidance was compiled over the summer.

Dr Tate began a campaign in the new year to encourage schools to concentrate more explicitly on morality. He immediately attracted the attention of Dr Carey, who agreed that while children may instinctively know what is right, they are uncertain about why and how to act in a moral way.

Dr Tate blamed intellectuals for portraying morality as a matter of personal choice. And some teachers, in the absence of a clear and publicly accepted moral framework, were influenced by this "moral relativism".

He said: "Teachers in general are careful to encourage moral behaviour in children. And evidence from polls

shows that children by and large know the difference between right and wrong, and want to behave in a moral way. But what we lack is a clear framework to support the work of schools, a widely acknowledged set of moral values."

The expert forum is expected to produce a glossary of basic terms so that the moral debate can be conducted in a less confused climate. It is also sampling schools' mission statements and codes of conduct to spread good practice.

Dr Tate said that a public statement of moral rules would not amount to a "new Ten Commandments". The intention was to provide teachers with "certain rules of thumb". He added: "They may not be very surprising or original. But we hope that the public statement of what society accepts as right and wrong will reinforce the work teachers do in schools."

According to a MORI poll intended to help to frame the new moral curriculum, children have a strong sense of right and wrong, but comparatively little interest in religious or philosophical questions. Almost nine out of

ten pupils aged between 11 and 16 said it was always wrong to cheat at school and an even higher proportion agreed that stealing could never be justified. But fewer than half were interested in whether God exists or expect life to improve in adulthood.

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority sampled the opinion of both adults and children before embarking on its debate on spiritual and moral guidance. The adults were divided about whether children should be told what is right and wrong, or merely guided. Working-class respondents were more likely than the middle classes to favour instruction.

Teachers and athletes rate above religious leaders in adult eyes for setting the best moral example to children. Fewer than half considered that religious leaders set a good example, compared with three-quarters for the most favoured groups. Politicians and pop singers feature at the other end of the spectrum.

Fewer than half of the adults interviewed said they would never lie, but there were big differences between age groups. Two-thirds of those



Nicholas Tate: "We lack a clear framework to support schools, a widely acknowledged set of moral values"

aged 15-24 admitted that they might lie, compared with fewer than one-third of those aged 65 or more.

Children were also split on a number of moral issues. Fewer than 60 per cent thought it always right to own up if they had done something wrong, and only 55 per cent said it was never right to call people names. Half said fighting could never be justified.

Young people are divided in

their opinion of adults. Half thought that most adults were kind but as many disagreed with the proposition that most people were honest.

Although six out of ten were interested in the meaning of life and whether there is life after death, about a quarter showed no interest in either question. More than a third said they were not interested in the existence of God.

Credo

Passion for goodness sets us on road to religion

Lord Habgood

Arguments about whether morality needs to be based on religion, or whether dependence on some external divine authority undermines responsibility, seem set to continue. Both extreme positions miss the subtlety of the relationship between faith and morals.

Religious believers are often in danger of forgetting that true religion is about the heart, not about external conformity. Atheists may assert a passionate belief in distinguishing between right and wrong, while feeling that it is enough to base this on what one of them has recently described as "a sense of culture". Our culture, whether religious or not, is indeed the medium through which most of us learn our sense of right and wrong. But a passionate, and one hopes a critical, belief is surely not just the reflection of the culture in which one happens to be brought up.

If it is to be more than this, then unless it is a mere expression of personal opinion, it somehow must rest on a belief that the values being defended in one way or another inhere in the nature of human life itself. It is hard to take moral passion seriously if it is just a way of saying "This is how I happen to feel".

But what are the implications of saying that there is something about human life which makes a certain moral orientation more than just convenient, or basically necessary for survival, but a matter of passionate concern? It is too easy to leap from that question straight into the arms of God. But I do not think it possible to bypass it without recognising it as one of the main questions which have set people off on a religious quest.

In the end, religions are about what is really felt to matter and what is really believed to be the case. The religious quest takes a vari-

ety of social forms and is embedded in a variety of histories, not all of which are admirable. In almost all its forms, however, it anchors human life in values which transcend the individual, and has the potential to criticise cultures which betray those values. Belief is not about dosing one's eyes and wishing some things were true. It is more about responding to a perception of what is good, and making sense of one's deepest insights into what underpins and promotes that good. As a Christian I try to respond to a life

which was judged to be "full of grace and truth" and which encapsulated and confirmed the long-explored Jewish belief that goodness is not a matter of arbitrary human choice, but is somehow "meant". I do

this in a religious tradition, Anglicanism, which while holding fast to the central insights has laid great stress on openness, balance and sanity, all of which are highly necessary in a world where the passion which lies at the heart of religion can easily get out of hand.

Those who grow up in this tradition may, if only for a time, feel impelled to express their passionate sense of what matters by moving to one of the extremes, or even by moving outside it altogether. Openness, balance and sanity are certainly not the whole story. Such rejections, however, do not invalidate the essential link between goodness and the religious quest as I have tried to express it. My hope is that a low-key and undogmatic exploration of the territory may help towards a more successful meeting of minds.

Lord Habgood was Archbishop of York from 1983 to 1995.

At your service
Weekend, page 15



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JP 11/10/96

Peers blame business, education system and the media for decline in national standards

Society shaken by an 'assault on traditional values'

BY ALICE THOMSON, TIM JONES AND JAMES LANDALE

THE House of Lords yesterday held an unprecedented debate on morality which had been urged by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Peers from all sides spoke on the decline of standards in public and private life. Many blamed the media, single parents, poorly paid teachers, modern education attitudes and questionable business ethics for eroding the moral fabric of the nation.

Lord Griffiths of Forestfach, former head of Margaret Thatcher's policy unit, speaking for the Government, said: "A moral and spiritual basis is crucial to our institutions and crucial to the family. If a family has a moral and spiritual core, it's much more likely to hold together. If a school has a moral and spiritual ethos to it, which distinguishes it from wrong it is a better school."

"If a company has integrity and responsibility and respect for individuals at its heart, it's a better company and people will prefer to work for it. If a nation has standards and trust is fostered within the nation, it is a better nation."

He said that society had been shaken by the "prevailing assault" on traditional values. "With rising figures for violence, divorce, drug abuse and illegitimacy, it is hard to think that the spiritual and moral well-being of the nation is not in decline."

Lord Morris of Castle Morris, Labour's education spokesman, said that clergy and teachers would never be respected until they were better paid. "The morale of today's school teachers is not high. Neither is their pay. Their status and the respect afforded to them by society has been severely eroded and until all these are reversed, their formative influence on the children they teach will not be as powerful as it used to be."

"It is a sad fact that today respect is given to the higher paid and the low paid workers are despised. Teachers must not be in that category."

He said religious education should be taught by teachers "who personally believe one of the faiths and practise it". Moral issues must be part of the examination process and marks awarded dependent on the understanding of them. Parents should be taught about morals as well as how to change nappies.

Baroness Sear, for the Liberal Democrats, blamed the influence of the media, particularly television, which was watched by the average person for 27 hours a week.

"That puts a most enormous responsibility on the television people. Television is a wonderful way in which people learned to imitate."

"How we can control this, I don't know. But I want to put very strongly to the people who control television that their responsibility today is greater than any other unit in society I can think of. It can only be done by self-control inside the media itself. If I do nothing else today, I do want to draw attention to that."

The Bishop of Winchester, the Rt Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, blamed modern society for its "obsession with instant gratification". He blamed the 1980s with its pursuit of competitiveness at all costs. He also railed against "soundbites which were ultimately untrue", and the media because they idealised infidelity, making it seem mature, fun and interesting.

Lord Jakobovits, the former Chief Rabbi, said it was right that the moral state of the nation should be put at the top of the national agenda. Agreeing that schools

played a pivotal role in the moral shaping of the nation he said: "If our children are raised in a moral vacuum then the essential ingredient of our civilisation will progressively disappear with incalculable consequences to the stability of our society."

We lived, he said, in an age of rebellion against all authority, with a belief that people should be non judgmental as though morality could be neutral. "In respect of children's education we encounter much opposition to what is called indoctrination. We are told let children grow up to decide for themselves on the moral choices before them; let them discover on their own what is right and what is wrong. This is pernicious advice."

Lord Elton, chairman of the 1988 Inquiry into Discipline in Schools and a former minister, said that self-discipline and self-denial were essential but now regarded by some as irrelevant and as a weakness or folly. They were, however, at the heart of the Lord's teaching.

Because access to the mass media had eroded the influence parents had over their children, teachers had a crucial role to play in promoting a virtuous and just society. "Teachers are the trustees of the nation's entire stock of useable knowledge. What they do or what they do not do will have a profound influence on every one of their pupils. It is not just a question of believing what you teach, it is a question of living it."

Lord Campbell of Croy, a former

'We don't want a nation whose motto is: I'm in the boat, Jack, shove off'

mer Tory Scottish Secretary, said that he lamented the decline in school assemblies with daily prayers. "They provided a simple opportunity to instil standards and indicate what good conduct in ordinary life consisted of."

People appeared to be more concerned over what was legal and illegal rather than what was right and wrong. There were a number of issues, including commercial espionage and leaks by government officials, that were hard to prove in a court of law but which were, morally, clearly wrong.

Lord Pilkington of Ouseford, a new life peer and former Headmaster of Kings School, Canterbury, said he had spent many years interviewing prisoners when he served on a parole board. Many were the product of broken families, and had been abused by their stepfathers. They had played truant, left school without qualifications and had drifted into crime.

"They had no experience of family life, no model on which to build loving relationships. These are the cases of a society which lacks an agreed system of values. Parents, schools and the society at large have to try and build up a system of moral values in a society without any agreed ideology."

However, the atmosphere in schools prevented them improving their moral standards. Part of the blame lay in moral relativism, a belief that there are no standard values, that morality is just taste or opinion, and in the belief that individuals are not responsible for their actions.

Lord Moore of Wolvercote, a

crossbencher and former civil servant, said that everybody reached a time in their lives when they questioned the origins of the universe and whether there was a God. "There is therefore a great responsibility of our schools to make sure that young men and women have received some spiritual and moral education before they go out into the world. Religious education should have the highest priority."

He said that many of our parents failed or were unable to do this so the responsibility fell on the schools. But he asked: "Are our teachers properly trained to instil in children some awareness of spiritual and moral values. Perhaps the greatest challenge facing our society today is the training of our teachers."

He also called for more religious broadcasting on television. "The most significant influence on children today is television but religious programmes on television remain very inadequate."

Viscount Caldecote, a Conservative, said: "Some people would assert that we don't need a nanny state but equally we don't want a nation whose motto is: 'I'm in the boat, Jack, shove off'. An amoral society is not a happy society. How much happier and more fulfilled would our national life be if the principles of the ten commandments were more widely practised?"

The Bishop of Ripon, the Right Rev David Young, said that religious education and morning assemblies helped pupils to consider the fundamental questions of life. "It's the whole curriculum, the life of the whole school, that provides the setting for spiritual and moral development."

Lord Pearson of Rannoch, a Conservative, attacked progressive education methods and political correctness as a "cancer" in the school system. "The educational philosophies successfully promoted by these destructive forces contain at least two fatal strands for an understanding of morality in our schools. It blurs the difference between right and wrong generally and it promotes the multi-faith mish-mash of religious teaching."

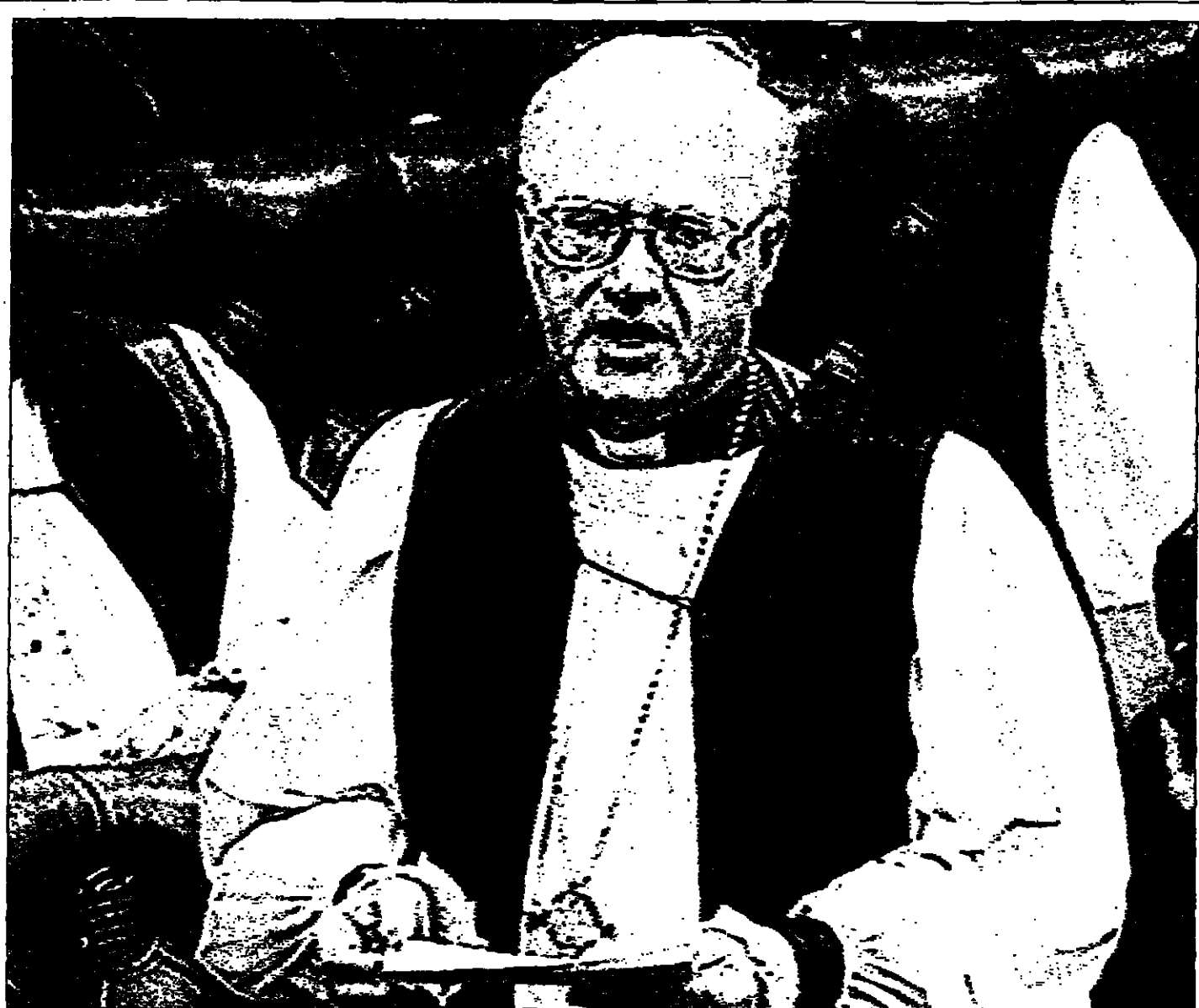
Lord Pearson accused the Church of failing to offer enough spiritual leadership. "We are not getting that guidance, that spiritual leadership from established religions."

Lord Borrie, a Labour peer and former long-standing Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, said modern-day role-models such as sports stars and musicians had a responsibility for moral leadership. "They may not choose to be influential but whether they choose to or not... they have a responsibility to behave in a responsible and ethical way."

He argued for greater moral behaviour within the business and financial communities. They must not rely too heavily on law to regulate their behaviour as economic competition increased.

Lord Marsh, a former Labour transport minister and former British Rail chairman, said that neither he nor any member of his family held religious beliefs. Claims that society was on the brink of moral collapse were a gross exaggeration.

"Caring and compassion are not the preserve of the moral minority. They are the natural instincts of normal human beings, rich and poor alike. I wish some of those who flaunt their personal sense of compassion, with somewhat fire-some frequency, would accept that personal wealth plays a major



Dr George Carey addressing the Lords yesterday. He gave warning that God was being banished to the realm of the private hobby

Carey urges parents and teachers to set an ethical example for all

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

BRITAIN must fight back against moral and spiritual decline, the Archbishop of Canterbury declared yesterday. Dr George Carey, opening a Lords debate on society's moral and spiritual wellbeing and the role of schools, said that God was being banished to the realm of the private hobby.

The Archbishop emphasised the importance of the family in setting a moral lead and said that religion had to be central to the education of young people.

A moral code was needed in life, just as rules were needed in football, he said, and he reinforced the central role of the Ten Commandments. "We take it for granted that you cannot play a game of football without rules. Rules do not get in the way of the game, they make the game possible. It is strange that what we take as so obvious for games we deem unnecessary for life."

He said that the British had been given a set of rules in the Ten Commandments, but were in danger of squandering their inheritance. "Moreover, we all know that the toughest moral decisions are not always between right and wrong, but between two rights which pull in different directions. So we desperately need our young people to learn both the basic rules and the judgment with which to confront the constant dilemmas of life. It would be a failure

and essential role in a caring society."

Viscount Tonyand, the former Commons Speaker, said: "This country will never be able to measure its debt to dedicated teachers. If society has gone wrong, don't put the blame on the schools. If society has lost its way, it's because it's lost its faith. How it lost its faith is another question. But undoubtedly our faith decides our conduct and our moral standards."

Lord Ashbourne, a Conservative peer, said that the family had become a prime target of attack and was crumbling. Old values had been swept away and new humanist laws voted in.

"The traditional family used to be a place to grow, find love and acceptance and security. Today the Department of Health gives the Terrence Higgins Trust—a sophis-

ticated, highly articulate homosexual organisation—a substantial funding, though mercifully less than it used to, and it has gained a marked influence on government thinking. New permissive legislation has weakened traditional family structure and children in particular have become vulnerable."

He accused politicians of having started the moral decline with the withdrawal of the prohibition on witchcraft in 1951 and new permissive legislation. "They then decriminalised homosexuality, allowed abortions, artificial insemination for single women."

Lord Quirk, a former professor of language and literature, blamed in part the media for the decline in moral and spiritual standards. "It is not the schools which publish the xenophobic comics nor our teachers

who wrote the headlines during Euro 96."

Lord Cranborne, Leader of the House, summing up for the Government, said that although the overwhelming majority of people were honest, generous and kind, in an age of increasing material prosperity the number of people who did not accept the moral consensus was worrying.

The number that do behave badly is increasing and the cost in terms of social cohesion and taxpayers' money is colossal.

He emphasised that individuals must take responsibility for their actions, and gave warning against the economic dependency culture. He praised the family as the basic building block of society.

Education was important in shaping moral values. "But I do think that schools cannot bear the

burden alone. There are some of us who must help, above all those who are parents."

Winding up the debate, Dr Carey said: "This has been a very optimistic debate. We not looked forward in despair but addressed real issues with a sense of purpose." He said there were three areas of agreement. The importance of nurturing moral values in young people, the central role of schools and teachers, and the duty of all sections of society—parents, the media and the entertainment industry—to exercise their powers responsibly.

"You cannot take moral behaviour for granted. It needs to be redefined, re-examined, and nurtured again and again. It is my hope that we will find ways of strengthening the moral fibre of the nation in the days ahead."

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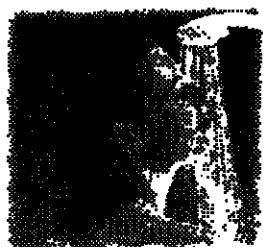
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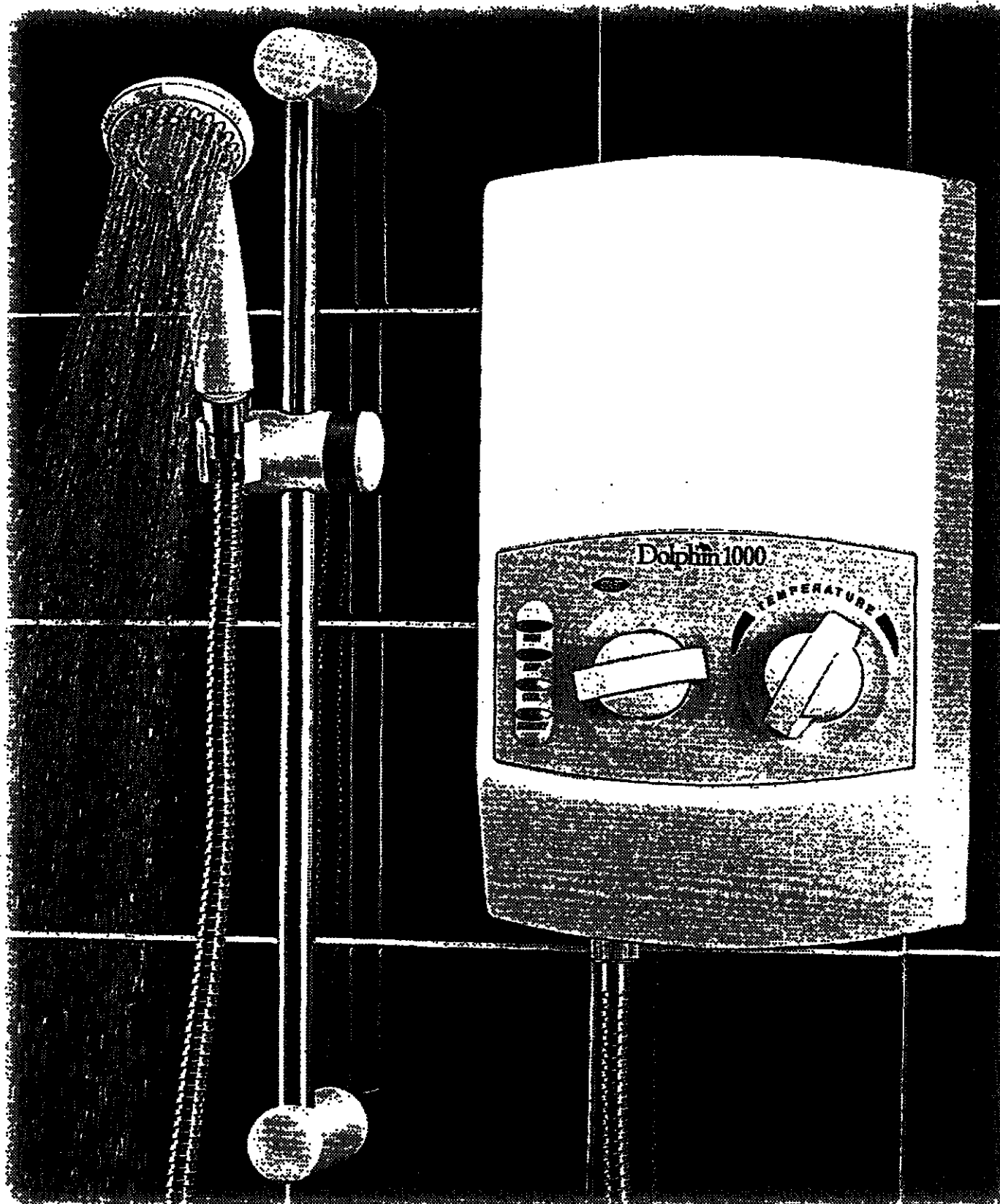
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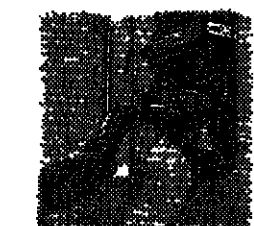
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MPs poised to lift rail link blight on thousands of homes

BY JONATHAN FRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A PLAN for a £3 billion freight railway line from the Midlands to the Channel Tunnel that has blighted thousands of homes in London and the shires is likely to be killed off by MPs in a Commons vote this month.

Labour and the Liberal Democrats have already said they are opposed to the privately funded project, known as Central Railway, and the Government, although still officially neutral, is expected to follow suit.

Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, will announce next week that time will be made available for a Commons debate and a free vote on the proposals between July 22 and July 25, when MPs rise for the summer recess. The vote will be the first under the Government's Transport and Works Act, which requires major infrastructure projects to receive the backing of both Houses of Parliament before going to public inquiry.

The Government hopes that by squeezing in the vote at the end of the sitting the anxiety that has afflicted angry constituents along a 180-mile swath of Tory seats from Rugby to Folkestone can be lifted before the recess.

It is expected that only a few MPs will attend the debate because of its proximity to the

summer break. The 25 members whose constituencies are on the route of the railway will almost certainly vote against it.

A spokesman for Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said Labour was opposed to the scheme because it was not properly funded, had technical flaws and was a blight to thousands of households. For a fraction of the cost of the railway, the existing West Coast Main Line could be upgraded to carry international freight trains to the Channel Tunnel rail link, he said.

David Chidgey, the Liberal Democrat transport spokesman, said his party also opposed the scheme.

However, the outcome of the Commons division still remains uncertain because of the small total number of votes likely to be cast and because Central Railway, a private consortium formed in 1989 that has already spent £9 million on the proposals, has yet to start its main lobbying campaign. "I have a feeling things are beginning to move in Central's direction," a spokesman for the company said. However, only a handful of MPs have supported the plan so far.

Andrew Gritten, chairman of Central Railways, is due to

meet Labour MPs representing Midlands constituencies at the Commons next week in an attempt to persuade them to support the project in the lobbies. He will argue that the link, which could open by 2001, will take more than a million lorries off the roads a year, providing huge benefits for the environment and creating hundreds of jobs.

The link would involve the construction of a line from the Midlands to the Channel Tunnel capable of daily carrying dozens of half-mile-long trains loaded with freight. Lorries would transfer their trailers to the trains at two huge depots, near Rugby and Uxbridge, west of London.

The route would require up grading some existing track, reinstating the axed Great Central Railway through Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire and the construction of about ten miles of new tunnel.

MPs have been showered with letters from angry constituents whose properties are along the route. Tracey Harvey, 32, whose garden in Denham, Buckinghamshire, skirts the route, said the blight was like a nightmare. Properties in her street had become unsaleable and the company was offering no compensation because it would be making use of an existing line.



Peter Boddington: said he intended to fight on, despite £30,000 High Court costs

Sixty-a-day man fails to end BR ban on smoking

A COMMUTER yesterday lost his attempt to overturn a total smoking ban on trains between London and Brighton. Peter Boddington, 42, who smokes 60 cigarettes a day, tried to persuade the High Court that British Rail was forbidden by its bylaws to impose the ban.

Two judges dismissed his appeal against a £10 fine for smoking. Lord Justice Auld conceded that the smoking ban left "scope for legal debate" and may let the issue go to the House of Lords.

Mr Boddington, who owns a market in south London and lives in Brighton, was ordered to pay costs that may total £30,000. Lord Justice Auld said the ban could have been challenged by a judicial review.

Mr Boddington said afterwards that he did not care what the action was costing him. "British Rail used intimidatory methods to enforce this ban," he said. "Plainclothes officers were used to catch people smoking who were then visited at home and asked to sign a document saying they would not smoke again."

Chris Randall, a spokesman for Network South Central, which runs the line, said the no-smoking policy "was introduced after 86 per cent of our customers, smokers as well as non-smokers, said they were in favour".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Irish lorry caused M6 alert

An Irish lorry driver was blamed for the 4½-hour closure of the M6 on Thursday. The bomb squad was called in after Cheshire police stopped the lorry at Sandbach and found discrepancies in papers and the vehicle. The M6 was closed while checks were made. Police said: "The driver was extremely obstructive. Public safety was paramount in our minds." The man is still being held on suspicion of having false documents.

Sentence raised

Ian Warnaby, a Lincoln ambulance driver who assaulted a farmer after his empty vehicle was held up by a tractor, had a six-week jail sentence increased to six months at Nottingham Crown Court. He had appealed against conviction and sentence.

Libel damages

An animal-rights campaigner accepted undisclosed libel damages over an article in the *Daily Express* which portrayed him as a violent thug. David Price, solicitor for Gareth Krissman, 26, a student, said his client's character had been assassinated.

Yachtsman dies

A Briton was killed in the Philippines when his yacht touched power cables. Graham Aspery, 35, of Hayling Island, Hampshire, died when his catamaran mast brushed the cables between a causeway and an island 100 miles southeast of Manila.

Welsh revived

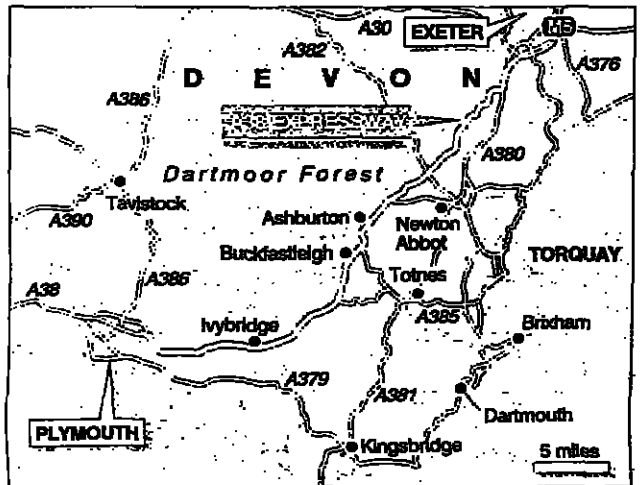
An orthopaedic surgeon who banned Welsh in his theatre at Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital in Bangor has been told that Wales is bilingual and staff are free to speak Welsh if they so choose. A spokesman said: "It was his first day. There will not be a recurrence."

Chindit papers

The Imperial War Museum has acquired Major General Orde Wingate's papers relating to Chindit operations in Burma in 1944. The purchase, for an undisclosed price, was made possible with a £19,500 grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Slow boat to Cornwall sets the pace on nation's first 'expressway'

BY PETER BARNARD



IT has been called the longest country lane in England. It twists to avoid natural obstacles, it dips and climbs over the Devon landscape. Cows graze near the roadside, tractors inch messily along and bed-and-breakfast signs swing in the breeze.

Now change is coming. Well, in a way. The Government has decided that the A38 between Exeter and Plymouth is to become Britain's first expressway, to encourage motorists to make more use of it. The road will not be widened, straightened or flattened, although ministers are asking the Ordnance Survey to think of a special colour on maps to distinguish expressways from "ordinary" A roads. As with

many other aspects of modern life, the road is getting a new image.

Judged by my drive along the 37 miles from the M5 at Exeter to the outskirts of Plymouth yesterday, the initial reaction is underwhelming.

"Is this a joke?" asked Alan Yeo, who was among a group of drivers told the news by *The Times* in the lorry park at Exeter services. "The trouble with politicians is that they never see the A38 except to fly over it."

Steve Drake, who drives 7.5 tonnes of truck along the A38, said: "There are hills where you can be down to 20mph and bends which are just as bad. This will encourage people to drive faster."

In fairness, I was nearly halfway to Plymouth before I encountered a tractor. It was pulling a trailer full of

something that looked like a prime suspect in the BSE crisis. Before that, my main problem was a JCB travelling so slowly up Halden Hill that I could have asked the driver his opinions without getting out of my car — if only I hadn't needed all my concentration to cope with a lorry carrying a large boat past the JCB at the time.

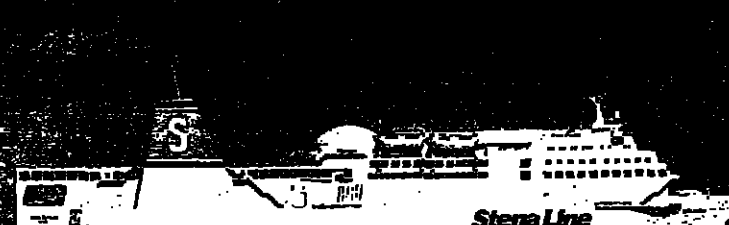
At this point, the words of David Curry, minister for the West Country, drifted into my mind: "Regular users of this route will be aware of its near-motorway standard, but it may not be so readily apparent to other road users."

He can say that last bit again. "There are places where 'near-motorway standard' does apply. The stretch between the M5 and Exeter racecourse

consists of three lanes — for 3.7 miles. There is a three-lane stretch of three miles as the road reaches Plymouth. In between there is 33.4 miles of dual carriageway.

Admittedly much of it can be covered at motorway speeds — particularly in the middle of the night. In the middle of yesterday, one needed the nerve of Damon Hill to make Mr Curry's perception a reality. Other roads likely to be considered for classification as expressways — rather than the more costly motorway status — include the A3, the A34, the A45 and the A55.

The A38 is by no means a bad road, but surely an "expressway" is straight with no exits, no slow traffic, no hitchhikers, no Happy Eaters — and no slow boats to Cornwall.



Stena Line.

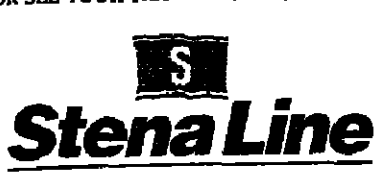
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Lincoln Cathedral rivals join forces to defy Carey

By RUSSELL JENKINS

ONE of the two Lincoln Cathedral clergy asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury to resign has made public his reasons for refusing.

Canon Rex Davis, the sub-dean, published yesterday his written reply, dated June 27, to Dr George Carey. It declares that the archbishop has no authority to remove him from office and that he is determined to fight for his job.

In the letter, Canon Davis makes a surprise plea on behalf of the dean, the Very Rev Dr Brandon Jackson, who has also been asked to resign. The dean was sent to Lincoln as a trouble-shooter after an exhibition in Australia of the cathedral's Magna Carta, organised by Canon Davis, lost the Church £56,000 and the Australian Government £79,000.

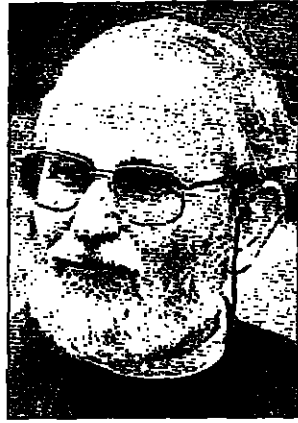
Canon Davis tells Dr Carey that it would be "neither proper nor fair" to ask the dean to step down when he is facing civil proceedings on charges of sexual misconduct with a female vergier. He writes: "It seems to me outrageously unfair you should put

this sort of pressure on Dean Jackson at this time ... the Archbishop is on the wrong foot."

Canon Davis complains that the report drawn up by the archbishop's envoy, Hector McLean, is flawed. "If there is the substance of a case against me in ecclesiastical law, then it should be brought," he wrote. "If not, then I believe resistance to what seems to me to be improper and unsubstantiated allegations remains a wholly justified and, indeed, only option open to me."

Dr Jackson is on a long-planned bed-and-breakfast holiday in Yorkshire to help his wife to recuperate from illness. He is said by his aides to be seeking guidance through prayer. Few among the cathedral staff believe that Dr Jackson, 61, a controversialist who relishes battle, will accede quietly to Dr Carey's request to resign.

There are signs that the two men whose personal animosity inflamed the ecclesiastical crisis are ready to forge an alliance against the archbish-



Davis was determined to fight for his job

op. One cleric said yesterday that Dr Carey had achieved the unthinkable by forcing the two men into the same camp.

Canon Davis said: "I told the dean this recently and we laughed about it. There is, I think, a misconception, which the archbishop has actually fuelled, that we are at loggerheads all the time. It really is unfair that this should be made the main issue."

The dean's legal problems are not over. Dr Jackson was

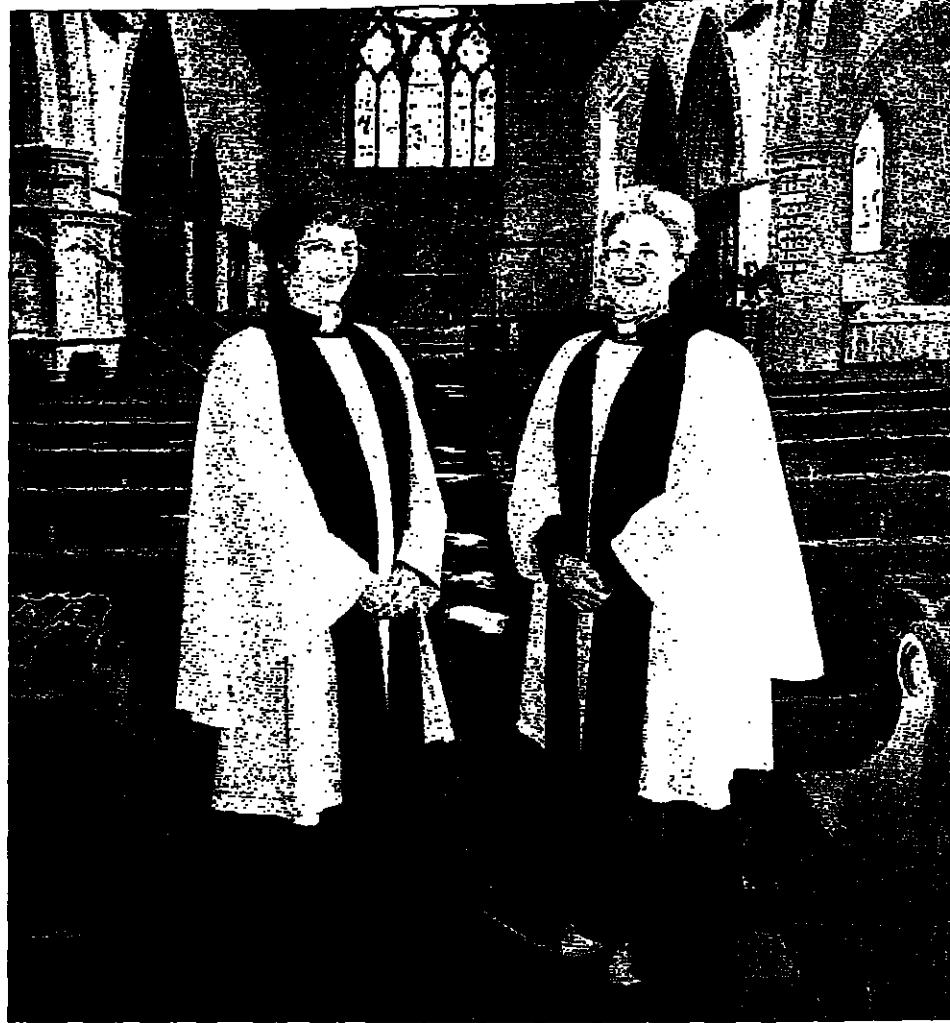
cleared in a church consistory court last year of sexual misconduct with a female vergier, Verity Freestone, 33. A hearing to decide whether her allegations can form the basis of an industrial tribunal case is scheduled for July 11. Ms Freestone is also pursuing a civil action.

Some members of the congregation have written to the Queen, who has the power to sack the two men, to intervene. The cathedral staff remains split, with most canons supporting the sub-dean and many of the senior laity lining up behind the dean.

A trade union said yesterday that clergy were turning increasingly to it to protect their homes and jobs. About 400 are members of the MSF, the professional and technical union, reflecting the erosion of the clergy's traditional rights of tenure and the growing power of bishops.

Chris Ball, national secretary of the MSF, said: "The clergy are probably less secure in their jobs than any other group of workers in Europe."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 15



Hannah Caw and her mother Alison Caw, who will be ordained together tomorrow at St Mary's and All Saints, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire

Widower speaks of reporter's crusade

By AUDREY MAGILL, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE husband of the murdered Irish journalist Veronica Guerin, speaking on what would have been his wife's 37th birthday, thanked the Irish people for their support and said he hoped somebody would take up her crusade against the underworld.

Graham Turley was speaking in public for the first time since his wife was shot, apparently by contract killers, in Dublin ten days ago. Police suspect Dublin gangland figures about whom she was writing for the *Sunday Independent* were involved.

Speaking on RTE radio, he thanked the Irish people for their support, cards and flowers. The Government announced a £12 million crime package in the wake of the public outrage at the killing.

"Veronica's death will not be in vain," Mr Turley said. "I would love to think that somebody takes up the crusade."

He and their seven-year-old son, Cathal, celebrated his wife's birthday in the usual way: "The presents were there this morning. They were opened. We'll have a family party like we always had a family party. Veronica's cards will be displayed. She is there with us. There is no time that Veronica won't be here."

Ms Guerin became a journalist six years ago after working briefly as an accountant, in public relations and as a researcher for Charles Haughey, the former Irish Prime Minister.

Her husband said that after she was shot in the thigh last year by a masked gunman they had discussed whether she should continue her work. "We had a little bit of a family meeting and I said 'Let's pull in the reins and sit down and talk'. She said 'I love this', and I said 'I am not going to interfere'. She was besotted with it."

He did not think he would ever come to terms with what had happened to his wife. "The most cherished thing I ever wanted is gone," he said.



Veronica Guerin: family celebrated her birthday

Driver ran to his death chasing bus gang

By KATE ALDERSON

A BUS driver died of a heart attack after chasing a gang who tried to steal his takings. Harold Oakley, 45, had abandoned his vehicle to pursue the youths through Liverpool city centre and into a three-storey block of flats.

Mr Oakley, from Speke, Liverpool, was found 30 minutes later by residents, bleeding from a cut to his head. He died shortly before paramedics reached the flats in Juvenal Street, near the city centre.

A post-mortem examination showed yesterday that a heart attack was the cause of death in Thursday's incident. A police spokeswoman said the death was still being treated as suspicious and officers were examining the circumstances.

The driver was married with a 21-year-old daughter. He had worked for three years for CMT Buses, whose director Jeff Grant said: "It was typical of him to stand up for what he thought was right."

There were up to ten youths, aged between 14 and 20. A boy aged 16 was being interviewed by police yesterday.

In January, a bus driver was slashed across the face in Huyton, Liverpool. His attacker got away with £12.

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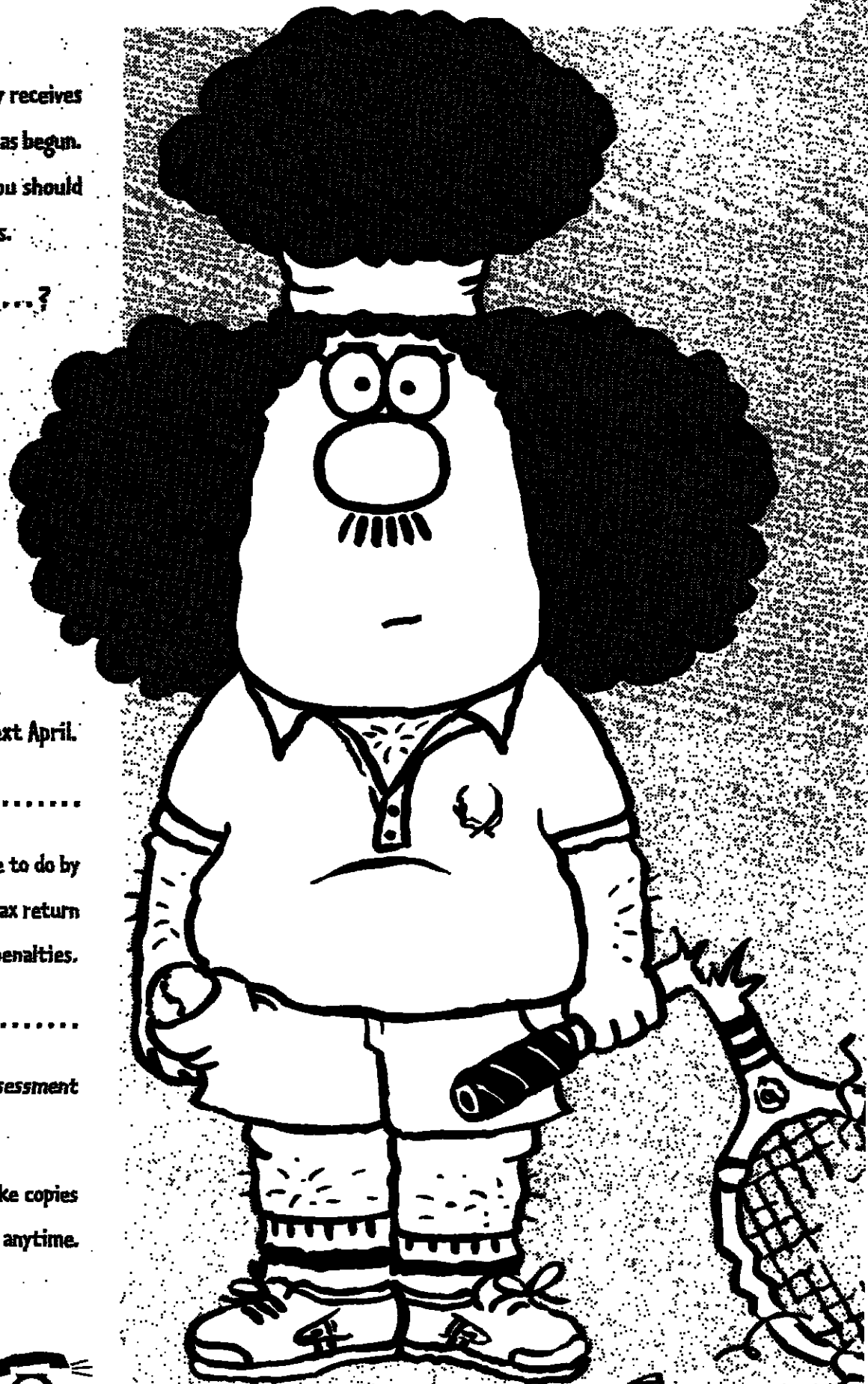
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July 11, 1996



Bardot: bounty offer

Bardot offers 'wolf' bounty

By BEN MACINTYRE

BRIGITTE BARDOT, the former film star, has offered a reward of Fr10,000 (£1,300) for the capture of a suspected wolf that has savaged sheep in the Larzac region of south-central France.

The animal has killed about 50 animals on the Larzac plateau, a prime sheep-breeding area, despite efforts by farmers to find and destroy it.

The Brigitte Bardot Foundation condemned "the fury of farmers who would track down and kill the supposed wolf, which has still not even been identified", and criticised the French Environment Ministry for authorising the execution.

Another wolf-hunt was organised by Larzac shepherds yesterday in an attempt to catch the animal, described as grey-brown and standing at least 6in taller than an alsatian.

Mme Bardot, 61, has insisted the animal must be captured alive to earn the bounty. If it does turn out to be a wolf, it is unlikely to join Mme Bardot's menagerie of stray dogs, cats, ducks and chickens. It will probably go to a wildlife park.

Roger Scruton, page 22
Leading article, page 23

French rail chief is held in oil firm fraud inquiry

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE head of SNCF, France's state-owned railway company, was behind bars yesterday after a judge ordered his detention over allegations of fraud when he ran the vast French petroleum company, Elf-Aquitaine.

Loïc Le Floch-Prigent, 52, is the most prominent businessman to be implicated so far in a series of corruption scandals. He is suspected of misusing corporate funds, receiving stolen goods and publishing false accounts to help a friend and fellow company head when he was chairman of Elf from 1989 to 1993.

He was questioned for 12 hours on Thursday by an anti-corruption magistrate, Judge Eva Joly, then placed under formal investigation and remanded in custody in Paris pending a fraud inquiry.

The magistrate, who is currently under police protection, is investigating how Elf came to invest Fr787 million (£100 million) in the ailing Bidermann textile company between 1989 and 1993. Maurice Bidermann, the former head of the clothing company and a close friend of the detained SNCF chief, is also in custody. So far eight people are under formal investigation.

Much of the money made over to M Bidermann's company went through offshore accounts and M Le Floch-Prigent and his wife allegedly received numerous "gifts" from the textile magnate. M Le Floch-Prigent was appointed chairman of SNCF after last winter's crippling transport strikes. A skilled negotiator and a favourite of the unions, he was hailed as the only man capable of mounting a rescue operation for the debt-saddled company.

M Le Floch-Prigent is the first head of a French public company to be incarcerated, but the Elf-Bidermann affair is only the latest and most dramatic in a string of corruption investigations, many involving illegal party funding, that have rocked France's political establishment. This week the Government was accused of seeking to derail a

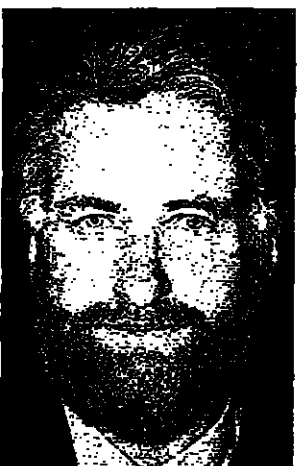
separate legal investigation involving Jean Tiberi, the Mayor of Paris and a leading figure in the ruling Gaullist party.

The authorities said they had decided to detain the SNCF chairman because of fears of "public disturbances" if he remained at liberty. Government officials yesterday sidestepped the question of whether M Le Floch-Prigent should resign. Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, insisted M Le Floch-Prigent, whose appointment was personally approved by President Chirac, should be presumed innocent unless found guilty at trial.

The chairman of the SNCF will take whatever decision his conscience dictates. It is not up to me or others to give him advice," said Charles Millon, the Defence Minister.

The Socialist Party yesterday called on M Chirac and the Government to take full responsibility for the appointment of M Le Floch-Prigent, even though the businessman is widely regarded as a figurehead of the Left.

M Le Floch-Prigent's lawyer



Le Floch-Prigent: a union favourite

said that incarcerating his client was a "shocking" over-reaction, and claimed that Judge Joly was trying to demonstrate his judicial independence in the wake of the furore surrounding the Tiberi case. "The justice system

wanted to show it was above all suspicion," said Olivier Metzner, after filing an appeal for the immediate release of his client which requires a ruling within three days.

"Here is a man who is in prison without having been able to explain what he did or did not do in the case," M Metzner said.

A former head of the Rhône-Poulenc chemicals group and the state-owned GDF gas company, M Le Floch-Prigent has denied any wrongdoing and claims that Elf was just one of several companies involved in a plan to save the textile company. "I have no intention of resigning," he said.

The current head of Elf, the privatised company with the highest turnover in France, has said that the money poured into Bidermann is now "almost certainly lost".

Last month, M Le Floch-Prigent unveiled a plan to overhaul the SNCF which found favour with most of its 180,000 employees. Union leaders yesterday said they feared that the reconstruction project, under which the State will take on more than half the company's debts, could be fatally undermined by the imprisonment of the SNCF chief.

Political sources yesterday pointed out that he could hardly continue to negotiate the future of the SNCF from his jail cell and predicted that unless M Le Floch-Prigent is released within days the company's new chairman will have little choice but to stand down.

A pledge to stamp out corruption formed one of the main planks of M Chirac's presidential campaign last year. The Government has reacted to allegations of political interference by castigating the press and accusing magistrates of violating secrecy rules by leaking information to the media.

Judge Joly, who began her investigation two years ago and has a reputation as one of the toughest anti-corruption magistrates in France, was placed under police protection last month at her own request.



Sandra Zilioli, a suspected bank robber, at a São Paulo police station. Brazil's press dubbed her "Sharon Stone", alleging a resemblance to the Hollywood star

Police pursue basic instinct

FROM REUTER IN SÃO PAULO

A 24-YEAR-OLD woman accused of robbing six banks at gunpoint and dubbed "Sharon Stone" for her looks, hair and tight outfits, was arrested in southeastern Brazil, police said.

Police chief Renato Vieira said Sandra Zilioli, 24, was among a band of robbers who went on a three-month spree

and made off with close to \$200,000 (£130,000) in the town of Campinas, 60 miles from São Paulo. "She would walk into a bank with her bag full of guns," he said. "When a metal detector went off, she would hold up a tape-player. That was her modus operandi."

Senhora Zilioli was arrested at her apartment on Tuesday, identified by witnesses and charged. Police recovered \$4,000 (£2,500) and weapons, said the police chief.

While the press has called Senhora Zilioli "Sharon Stone", Senhor Vieira said he could not see the resemblance of his suspect to the Hollywood star of *Basic Instinct*.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Killer 'was in Milat family'

Sydney: The man who killed seven backpackers, including two Britons, and kidnapped an eighth was almost certainly a member of Ivan Milat's family, the defence admitted yesterday (Roger Maynard writes).

As one of the longest and most sensational criminal trials in Australia's modern history drew to a close, the focus of attention shifted to the brothers of the man charged, Terry Martin, for the defence, admitted someone in the family was guilty, adding: "The question is who?"

Earlier the prosecution had told the jury that considering the possibility that another family member was involved did not mean that Ivan Milat was innocent.

Hutu threat

Johannesburg: A Hutu extremist organisation, People in Arms to Liberate Rwanda, has promised rewards to those killing Americans in the country. There is a \$300 bonus on the US Ambassador's head.

Doctor fined

Paris: Dr Claude Gubler, author of a book disclosing secrets about the cancer that killed former President Mitterrand, was given a four-month suspended sentence and fined £7,500. (AFP)

Bodies retrieved

Sarajevo: Finnish experts under UN auspices ignored Bosnian Serb objections to recover at least nine bodies from a hill, believed to be Muslims killed escaping from Srebrenica last year. (Reuters)

China flood toll

Peking: Vast floods across four southern Chinese provinces, Guizhou, Zhejiang, Anhui and Jiangxi, have left 237 people dead, at least 3,708 injured and tens of thousands homeless. (Reuters)

Mafia tip-off

Reggio Calabria: Italian police arrested a chain-smoking escaped Mafia murderer who gave himself away with a pile of hundreds of cigarette ends thrown from a window of his hideaway. (Reuters)

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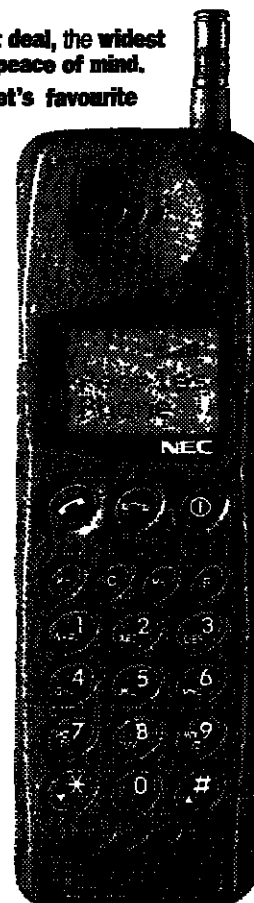
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Colleagues attempt to restrain Chen Tsang-hung, an MP of Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang, as he tries to kick Ting Yung-sun, left, of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party in the Taipei parliament yesterday. MPs also pulled opponents' hair and

Taiwan's fight for democracy

exchanged punches as brawling paralysed the assembly for the second day running. The 334-member assembly, elected last March, began a two-

month session on Thursday to debate bringing the constitution into line with Taiwan's blossoming democracy. Fighting was renewed yesterday over who should chair the

meeting. A dozen women opposition MPs, including Ms Ting, formed a human wall to prevent the majority Nationalists from taking the podium. The fracas ended when a recess was called. (AP)

Shaken House of Fahd moves slowly to shore up façade

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Dhahran bomb that killed 19 Americans has shaken Saudi Arabia, but the House of Saud will not fall. For all the jitters, unrest and grumbling, few Saudis want to see the removal of the dynasty that has brought them unprecedented wealth, power and opportunity. They just want it to rule the kingdom better.

Influential Saudi businessmen acknowledge that all is not well in the world's largest oil producer. They point to a rapid fall in incomes, rising prices for food and housing, huge government debts to private banks which consume about a fifth of the budget, a rise in unemployment to about 20 per cent, and a government machine that appears incapable of taking tough decisions.

The statistics give a recipe for revolution: average incomes are down by two-thirds, thousands of graduates are emerging from universities

without jobs, recent budget cuts in subsidies and benefits have fallen disproportionately on the middle and poorer classes, and the 4 per cent birth rate is straining the overstretched social service network.

The sudden fall in wealth has exacerbated latent tribal divisions, and unrest is being exploited by obscurantist religious puritanism, which has a hold in the central and eastern provinces. The anger is fanned by invective from Iran denouncing the Royal Family.

Yet few see any imminent threat to the House of Saud, which has ruled undisputed for the past 64 years. "The Saudis are very peaceful people. The violent streak that is coming out in these bombings is for purely economic reasons," one commentator said. "The Royal Family has been seen as a unifying force. We have some who are corrupt, some who are ignorant. But they are not vindictive. Saudis look around at the rulers nearby and are glad they have the Saudis."

Many Saudis say, however, that the family is too secretive and unwilling to delegate responsibility, though few dare speak openly. Junior Cabinet ministers do not have authority to make decisions, and when the top man is away everything is left pending.

The main charge of the new technocrats, who studied in Europe and the United States, is that long-term economic planning is impossible. There is no reining in of spendthrift princes, no rationale behind prestige projects such as wheat production reliant on irrigation, which makes it five times more expensive than imported grain.

"They have spent generous-

ly — on arms, the religious establishments — but it turns out to be a liability. The new Islamic universities produce graduates who know only how to pray: they are almost unemployable," the frustrated head of one company said.

The Government has begun to respond to these complaints. Cabinet ministers who have held office for more than 20 years have been changed. The latest budget has tried to reduce the huge internal debt, removing many subsidies and curbing spending. There has been a crack-down on religious extremism, especially on firebrand preachers calling for a rejection of



King Fahd: under attack

Western materialism. A new policy to boost employment among nationals demands a 5 per cent increase in the employment of Saudi citizens at the expense of the huge expatriate community.

Still, there is little room for democracy. The new Consultative Assembly, due on a parliamentary visit to Britain next week, is in its infancy and cannot initiate legislation. There is no legitimate outlet for opposition.

US ponders retreat to safety of Saudi desert

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S 5,000 troops in Saudi Arabia could be heading into the desert as protection from bomb attacks.

The move is under consideration by William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, whose resignation has been demanded by leading Republicans over security lapses before last week's bombing that killed 19 Americans near Dhahran.

Mr Perry has also acknowledged the Pentagon no longer rules out cuts in its overall Saudi military strength if security threats persist. Earlier, President Clinton and Mr

Perry had assured the Saudis that America would not be intimidated into changing its mission of support.

Most American forces in Saudi Arabia are air force personnel who maintain communications and patrol the no-fly zone over Iraq.

□ Bomb pointer: American investigators have concluded that the Dhahran bomb contained 3,000lb of a rapid detonating explosive that has been used by the IRA. They also believe the terrorists had foreign backers, possibly from Iran.

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EXECUTIVE VOICE 28

John Garrett on
the future of
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SPORT 44-52

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HIDDEN ASSETS
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Page 29

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JULY 6 1996

Bellwinch takes on widow over policy payout

By Jason Nisse

A BUILDING group is suing the widow of its former chief executive to prevent her from claiming the £601,600 life insurance policy payable when he died.

Bellwinch, which is based in Wembley, is trying to stop Jean Davies from receiving the payout from a Norwich Union death-in-service cover taken out on her husband, Ray, who died in June last year while still working for the company. Mr Davies is credited with saving the company from collapse.

The total payout due from the

policy is £601,600. At the moment, that money is being held by Norwich Union and has not been paid out to Mrs Davies or to Bellwinch.

Speaking from her home in Devon, Mrs Davies said she was receiving the company pension to which she was clearly entitled and, along with Mr Davies' daughter, had received a payout from one of her husband's life insurance policies. Bellwinch is disputing a larger payout, which is being held in trust by Norwich Union.

According to the writ, issued by Allsop Wilkinson, Bellwinch's solicitors, the housebuilder claims that it should be paid out from the policy

because it paid the premiums as part of the service contract agreed with the late Mr Davies. The premiums paid by Bellwinch were £10,194 a year.

It is claiming that the intention had always been that Bellwinch would be paid out from the policy and use the receipts to pay death benefits to Mrs Davies. It is saying that, at the very least, it is entitled to a share, totalling £364,000, of the policy payout.

The housebuilder is also suing William Reece Bidder, an executor of Mr Davies' estate, and Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, the insurance broker, which arranged the policy. Neither was available for comment

and no one at Bellwinch's head office would discuss the dispute.

Mr Davies, who was 57 when he died, had been chief executive of Bellwinch for five years, in which time he had brought the housebuilder back from the brink of collapse. He was hired from Abbey, the plant hire and building group, in 1990, when Bellwinch, which had been a management buyout in the mid-1980s, was struggling because of overinvestment in property in London's Docklands.

Only a year after joining, Mr Davies was involved in a highly imaginative financial reconstruction

that saved the company from receivership after its shares were suspended on the stock market in August 1991. Two of its banks, Midland and Royal Trust, were persuaded to cancel £10.5 million of loans in exchange for development land, and a third bank, TSB, struck a similar deal involving a site in Weymouth, Dorset, and £6.5 million.

Bellwinch also raised £3.3 million from shareholders, which put it on a stronger footing. After raising a further £6.5 million through a share issue a few years later, Bellwinch was able to refocus the business as a small, specialist housebuilder.

Pearl will pay out £1bn to investors

By Marianne Curphey

SHARES in Britannic, Refuge and United Friendly rose strongly yesterday after Pearl Assurance, the fellow life company, announced that shareholders will receive a payout of nearly £1 billion from the surplus in its life fund.

Pearl, which is wholly owned by Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP), will also pay a £315 million special bonus to with-profits policyholders "as a goodwill gesture". Pearl, which has been criticised in the past for poor performance, said that about two million with-profits life and pension policyholders would share in the total £350 million special bonus, to be divided 90:10 between policyholders and shareholders.

The surplus in the life fund, known as an orphan asset, has built up over the years because past profits have exceeded payouts to policyholders, and because shareholders have not always been given their maximum entitlement.

However, around 200,000 will be unhappy. These include those whose policies matured before Thursday and who will be excluded from the payout, as well as holders of general insurance policies or unit trust investments, who will receive nothing. A spokes-

man for Pearl said: "We are looking forward, not backward and those whose policies mature from now on will share in the payout."

Independent financial advisers expressed concern that former policyholders might have missed out on more generous bonuses because of conservative calculations in the past by Pearl's actuaries. Tim Cockerill, investment director with Whitechurch Securities, said: "Actuaries tend to take a long-term view and payouts are often cautious."

The year-long review means that AMP has recouped a large proportion of the £1.2 billion it paid for Pearl in 1989. Under the terms of the settlement, which have been agreed in principle by the Department of Trade and Industry, AMP will receive £918 million from life fund profits, plus the future surplus from without-profits business of £42 million, and an extra £35 million from the goodwill bonus.

Bonuses to Pearl policyholders will vary in size depending on the type of policy held, but a customer with a 25-year endowment started in 1975, with a sum assured of £6,000, will have an extra £246 added to their policy this year. A customer who started paying £300 a year towards a pension in 1981 could have £538 added to the value of their policy.

Britannic, meanwhile, is believed to be close to announcing a redistribution of its own surplus funds, which some analysts have valued at up to £1.6 billion. Shares in Britannic rose 43p to 766p. Brian Shaw, Britannic's general manager and actuary, declined to comment on the "price sensitive" issue. Shares in Refuge, whose talks with the DTI are expected to come to a conclusion this year, rose 15p to 473p. John Cudworth, chief executive, said he had "no idea when settlement will be reached". United Friendly, which paid out proceeds from its orphan estate last year, saw its shares leap 20p to 765p.

Legal & General, which has already paid bonuses to policyholders and shareholders, rose 6p to 672p, while Prudential, currently in negotiations with the DTI, rose 2p to 412p.



Richard Purdy, left, chairman of Merrydown, and Paul Millman, managing director, toast a return to profit after the cider company reported earnings of £2 million for the year to the end of March, against losses of £2.7 million previously. *Tempus*, page 30

Post Office says Treasury to blame for £50m decline

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Post Office, currently involved in a bitter pay dispute with its sorting office and delivery workers, suffered a £50 million fall in annual profits to £422 million.

The PO, announcing the setback yesterday, said "unprecedented" cash demands from the Government, which amount to £1 million for every working day, would severely restrict profits over the next three years, close to the entire amount paid to the Government over the past decade.

Describing the Treasury's requirements as "particularly exacting", Sir Michael Heron, chairman, said: "This is the biggest cash demand from the Treasury in the history of the

Post Office." The rise in stamps will generate an extra £150 million of revenue a year.

Sir Michael said that a series of "harmful" industrial disputes had led to the loss of 62,000 working days in 1995 and had raised issues that "cannot be glossed over". Greater flexibility was needed in all Post Office businesses, in return for a fair-pay package.

John Roberts, chief executive, said all the businesses had met their financial targets. Reporting Royal Mail profits of £411 million, down from £449 million, he emphasised intensifying competition from couriers, faxes and E-mail.

million on sales of £5.2 billion in the year to March 31. Tim Holley, chief executive, earned £545,053, including bonus and pension contribution. He and his four executive colleagues shared £849,000 in salary and benefits, and £373,000 in bonuses. Mr Hawkins' pay was not disclosed - Camelot's annual report will give a breakdown - but he was paid a base salary of £109,000 to £135,000.

Camelot's directors were entitled to a further 50 per cent of base salary in bonuses - provided they remained in full-time employment until July 1. Mr Hawkins could have earned a bonus of up to £67,500, topped up with benefits and pension contributions.

Camelot director goes with bonus

By Jon Ashworth

ONE of Camelot's five executive directors is cashing in his chips and leaving the National Lottery operator - hard on the heels of the storm over "fat cat" pay. Norman Hawkins, director of commercial operations, will retire in September, weeks after securing his latest bonus.

Headhunters are seeking a replacement for Mr Hawkins, 59, one of the founding Camelot directors. Camelot denied that there was anything untoward in his departure, surprisingly early in the seven-year term of the lottery licence. It further denied rumours that a second director, David Rigg, director of com-

munications, was also leaving the company. Mr Rigg has suffered ill health recently, but has returned to his duties after an absence of some weeks.

Camelot staff were told of Mr Hawkins' departure in a memo. The company said that he was leaving because he had reached retirement age, and said that it was always intended that he would leave before Camelot's licence ends in September 2001. Mr Hawkins will collect pay and bonuses due to him up until his departure, but will not be entitled to any additional "golden handshake".

Camelot directors have been criticised for high pay and bonuses. Last month the company unveiled pre-tax profits of £77.5

million on sales of £5.2 billion in the year to March 31. Tim Holley, chief executive, earned £545,053, including bonus and pension contribution. He and his four executive colleagues shared £849,000 in salary and benefits, and £373,000 in bonuses. Mr Hawkins' pay was not disclosed - Camelot's annual report will give a breakdown - but he was paid a base salary of £109,000 to £135,000.

US shares hit by rates fear

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

AMERICAN stocks and bonds plunged yesterday on fears of higher interest rates after news that the US unemployment rate had fallen to a six-year low. The Dow-Jones industrial average plunged 114.88 points to close at 5,588.14.

Non-farm jobs grew by 230,000 in June, after a jump of 365,000 in May. The unemployment rate fell from 5.6 per cent to 5.3 per cent, the lowest since June 1990.

The news, only two days after the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) met and apparently decided not to raise US rates, surprised the markets. Wall Street economists had looked for a 150,000 rise in non-farm payrolls and for unemployment to drop only a little, to 5.5 per cent.

The benchmark Treasury long bond was down nearly three full points. Its yield jumped to 7.18 per cent, against 6.93 per cent on Wednesday. In London, the FT-SE 100 fell 31 points before recovering to close 17.4 lower, at 3,743.2.

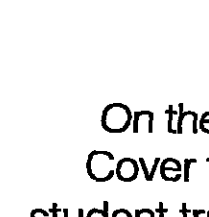
Some economists argued that the FOMC would have tightened monetary policy if it had seen the jobs release.

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WEEKEND MONEY



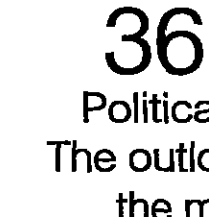
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escalator bonds

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3743.2	(-17.4)
Yield	4.05%	
FT-SE All share	1858.75	(-8.72)
Nikkei	22232.42	(-20.49)
New York		
Dow Jones	8512.28	(-89.77)
S&P Composite	851.13	(-11.27)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	6.75%	(unq)
Long Bond	7.17%	
Yield		

LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	5.75%	(9.74)
Life long gift	106.75	(106.75)
Future (Sep)		

STERLING		
New York	1.5540*	(unq)
London	1.5551	(1.5903)
DM	2.3761	(2.3770)
FF	8.0303	(8.0364)
Sfr	1.5623	(1.5650)
Yen	172.42	(172.27)
\$ Index	96.7	(96.8)

\$\$\$ DOLLAR		
London	1.5303*	(unq)
DM	5.1705*	
FF	1.2520*	
Sfr	110.89*	
Yen	97.8	(97.2)
\$ Index		

Tokyo close Yen	110.62	
North Sea Oil		
Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$19.10	(\$19.00)

GOLD		
London close	\$381.75	(381.05)
* denotes midday trading price		

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Gaming and leisure should not be left to chance

I work in one of the largest and most popular British industries: leisure. It is a mass market, providing entertainment and recreation for ordinary people — millions of them, at thousands of sites around the country, every day of the year.

If the fashionable word "non-elitist" had not been invented already, I hope the Rank Organisation might have invented it. We don't offer grand opera — but we had a turnover of £755 million last year in the cinema, TV and video sectors. Last year, our bingo halls, casinos and multi-leisure centres were visited more than 30 million times by the British public.

We don't rip off our customers. We know it would be commercial madness if we tried to. We recognise that our customers are sensible people who deserve to be trusted to spend their money in the way they choose. But they aren't trusted. Not by Whitehall, which

has been reviewing the regulation of an important part of the leisure industry, gaming.

Anyone operating in the leisure sector knows there have to be sensible regulations. Anyone with experience of running establishments knows that there must be stringent rules to ensure total honesty and integrity are maintained. But a large part of the existing structure of regulation is certainly not needed.

Timothy Kirkhope, an arch-deregulator, and his team at the Home Office are now endeavouring to press forward the deregulation process for casinos and bingo clubs — many of which are run by blue-chip public companies.

He and his team recognise that there is a gaping need for the Gaming Act 1968 to be updated. Relaxation of the rules will be welcome, but the changes suggested in the Home Office consultation

paper that was published earlier this year would still include strange anomalies.

It is proposed, for instance, that advertising of bingo halls and casinos should be legalised — but, while we would be allowed to advertise our casinos in *Yellow Pages*, we would not be able to advertise in the local paper. And while boxing promoters are allowed to use modern technology to link up cinemas so that a larger audience can enjoy a big fight, we would not be allowed to make bingo games more interesting by linking up our network of bingo halls electronically.

The 1968 Act contained much of the philosophy of national life half a century ago, when "the man in Whitehall knew best" and we lived in a nanny state. Even today, Nanny instinctively feels that when ordinary people aren't safely locked up in their workplace, they get up to no good. When it comes to

EXECUTIVE VOICE



John Garrett

non-elitist activities, such as gaming, it seems the customer still cannot be trusted.

Fair enough, some of you may say — until you remember that something happened recently to knock the bottom out of the Nanny State argument. I refer to the National Lottery.

I have no quarrel with the National Lottery. It is no secret that Rank would have liked to be

chosen to run it but we were pipped at the post. The point is that the National Lottery has completely overturned the once accepted view about the State's role in relation to gaming.

The Betting and Gaming Act 1968 provided that gaming properly regulated is legal, but there must be no stimulation of demand. The National Lottery is one of the biggest demand-stimulation operations ever mounted. It is a huge advertising spend. Its tickets are sold in more than 30,000 retail establishments, where anyone over 16 may buy tickets. This adds up to a massive part of leisure sector turnover — indeed the whole of the increase in leisure spending between 1994 and 1995 was accounted for by the lottery.

It does seem illogical that the same Government which approves of limitless multimillion-pound jackpots still proposes to impose restrictions on how much

can be paid out in bingo prizes. Regulatory authorities seem unable to take a realistic overall view of the modern world of leisure. Millions of people now have spare cash to spend on their leisure. Again and again, however, bureaucracy lays a dead hand on the leisure industry when it tries to satisfy demand in response to normal market forces.

After careful study of the market, we are convinced there is a real demand for edge-of-town leisure developments. Ah, say the planners, that will encourage people to use their cars — why can't they take the bus to the town centre? But we are talking about people going out for an evening, when the rush hour is over, and the bus service is reduced after 6pm.

In this day and age, people would much rather drive to a modern, comfortable leisure com-

plex out of town, where they know that they can leave their car in a safe, secure, well-lit car park. As with our gaming laws, our planning laws need a healthy dose of realism if the leisure industry is to take advantage of the opportunities open to it.

What lies ahead is an unprecedented opportunity for the leisure industry to provide a whole new range of leisure experiences for the customer, and in doing so to create jobs and boost earnings from tourism.

Freedom from over-regulation and over-restrictive planning regimes are the two best initiatives the Government can take to release the full potential of this industry and prepare it to become one of the great British success stories of the 21st century.

John Garrett is managing director of the Recreation Division, The Rank Organisation.

Wickes troubles may involve 120 suppliers

By Sarah Cunningham

INVESTIGATORS called in to study the books of Wickes, the DIY retailer, are concerned about the group's relationships with up to three quarters of its suppliers.

Serious accounting irregularities led Wickes to overstate last year's profits by as much as £30 million.

Price Waterhouse, the investigating auditor, and Linklaters & Paines, the solicitor, are focusing on relations with some 120 suppliers. They are expected to report their initial

findings to the Wickes board late next week.

A new, accurate profit figure for the past year can then be issued, expected to be £25 million to £30 million lower than the £36.7 million initially reported. This will allow trading in the shares to restart.

They were suspended after plummeting when the company announced that it had uncovered irregularities. It could also trigger a bid for the weakened group, which has yet to receive a formal approach.

Cantors and Harveys to merge

By Clare Stewart

CANTORS and Harveys Holdings, the home furnishing retailers, are to merge, creating a 320-store group capitalised at £90 million and with combined sales of £140 million.

Robert Templeman, managing director of Harveys, said: "Overnight we have become a major player, and one of the largest multiple retailers in household textiles."

The new group, to be renamed H&C Furnishings, plans to expand to around 400 stores, opening high-street

and out-of-town outlets. Although the new stores will create jobs, redundancies are expected from the merger. No decisions have yet been taken on job cuts, says the group, which in total employs 2,100 staff. The merger will take place via a reverse takeover by Cantors of Harveys, the Essex group in which Lord Harris, the carpets magnate, holds a 43 per cent stake.

The £55.4 million offer is made on the basis of 883 new Cantors shares for every 50 Harveys shares. The Cantors

offer has been backed by directors and shareholders of Harveys who hold 67.5 per cent of its shares.

In addition, Cantors is raising £8.3 million through a one-for-three rights issue at 165p per share. The money will fund merger costs and provide additional working capital.

Cantors, based in Sheffield, has seen its high-street furniture stores squeezed by larger out-of-town retailers. Last year sales overall dropped 4.2 per cent, as high-street turnover fell 14.6 per cent. A number of

exceptional items including property profits helped to increase profits, however, to £2.1 million (£1.6 million).

The total dividend is held at 3p. In the six months to February 29, Harveys reported profits of £3 million pre-tax on turnover of £49 million.

Nicholas Jeffrey, Cantors chairman, will become deputy chairman of the new group, with Sir Harry Solomon, chairman of Harveys, becoming non-executive chairman.

Tempos, page 30

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.06	1.92
Canada \$	17.72	16.22
Denmark Kr	81.80	47.59
France F	2.25	2.05
Germany DM	0.764	0.709
Italy Lira	2.017	1.83
Japan Yen	7.81	7.16
Netherlands Gld	6.44	5.79
New Zealand \$	2.53	2.32
Portugal Esc	200	180
Spain Ptas	16.36	14.70
Sweden Kr	1.08	0.96
Switzerland Fr	6.55	6.00
Taiwan New	24.94	23.39
Thailand Baht	18.40	17.00
UK £	0.804	0.745
USA \$	2.87	2.67
	2.42	2.20
Yemen Y	260	235.00
Yugoslavia Din	260.00	235.00
S Africa Rand	7.38	6.56
South Korea Won	200.00	180.00
Sweden Kr	11.00	10.20
Switzerland Fr	5.00	4.81
Taiwan New	12.00	11.00
USA \$	1.00	0.92

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates for travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The businessman who built Blockbuster into an \$8bn video rental chain wants to acquire Michael Ashcroft's ADT. An exclusive interview with the wheeler-dealer Wall Street calls Goldfinger — Wayne Huizenga... Business Focus, The Sunday Times tomorrow

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Trader happy with Sumitomo control

CREDIT LYONNAIS ROUSE (CLR), a ring trader at the London Metal Exchange, yesterday said it was satisfied that all credit lines and documents with Sumitomo Corp were not exclusively in the hands of Yasuo Hamanaka, the Japanese company's former head trader. CLR said that all credit lines extended to Sumitomo were fully advised after approval by Credit Lyonnais credit committees in London and Paris under normal internal procedures and Securities and Futures Authority (SFA) requirements.

The credit lines were "appropriately limited to the financial strength of Sumitomo", CLR said. In June, Sumitomo reported losses of \$1.8 billion in unauthorised copper trades over ten years by Hamanaka, who has since been fired. Working Week, page 29

Nuclear attraction

PRIVATE investors may end up owning close to half of British Energy, the UK's eight newest nuclear generators, as applications to share shops run ahead of those of the last privatisation — Railtrack. More than 125,000 people have applied to buy shares, advisers to the flotation said yesterday. At the same stage of the sell-off of Railtrack, 100,000 had applied. The public offer for shares closes on Wednesday. The institutional offer ends two days later. The bulk of public applications for privatisations tend to come in the final few days.

House building eases

HOUSING starts and completions were lower in May than a year before. Provisional figures from the Government estimate that 14,400 dwellings were started in May, against 16,300 in May, 1995; completions totalled 13,100 (16,900). In the latest three months, 43,200 dwellings were started, down 9 per cent on the same months a year ago, and completions totalled 41,700, down 12 per cent. Seasonally adjusted figures show starts in the latest three months unchanged from the previous three, but completions down 10 per cent.

Ladbroke raises £67m

LADBROKE GROUP, the betting and hotels group, is raising £67.25 million through the sale to Capital & Income Group of a leasehold interest in a property in London's Farringdon Road, headquarters of the Merrill Lynch merchant bank. Ladbroke said the proceeds would be used to reduce debt and to provide funds for reinvestment in its core business. The book value of the property at December 31, 1995, was £67.15 million, with profit attributable through rental income of £6.2 million last year.

OUR £20 MILLION RE-INVESTMENT ON MERSEYSIDE IS DOWN TO THE QUALITY OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE

Attracting major companies is one way to test the mettle of an area.

But the ultimate compliment is when a company is so impressed it increases its investment there.

So thanks, Kodak, for the compliment.

After nearly 50 years on Merseyside, the American giant decided to re-invest and expand here, making it their biggest chemicals operation in Europe. They have found the operation to have one of the most productive workforces of any of their plants in Europe, and the level of job applicants is always of the highest quality.

"There is a sense of energy and 'can-do' mentality in our workforce which mirrors our own philosophy."

So what's so special about Merseyside? The grants at local, national and European Union levels? Not one but three Training and Enterprise Councils? The number of good sites? One of the most sophisticated telecommunications systems in Europe? The co-operation between new and existing investors to pool their knowledge of the region?

Well, yes, yes, yes, yes and yes.

But there's something on Merseyside only Merseysiders can ever have - one and a half million Merseysiders.

As existing investors like Barclays, Ford, QVC and General Motors have discovered, the people here have adaptability and enthusiasm running in their veins.

They've taken to training and retraining with a vengeance. Contributing to productivity levels that are 12% higher than the national average.

"New working practices have been implemented quickly and efficiently."

And the workforce at Kodak? They've an enviable reputation for meeting quality standards and adopting new management systems.

For instance, a new business development of supplying photographic materials to hundreds of mini-labs throughout the UK has already achieved a Perfect Delivery level of 98% OTIFNE (On Time, In Full, No Errors) when 90% is regarded as excellent. They are not however resting on their laurels as they strive for a perfect 100%.

That's why Kodak has poured an extra £20 million into their Kirby plant in the last 18 months.

So whether you're in the photographic business or not, one thing's for certain.

Developing companies need look no further than Merseyside.



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A WORKING WEEK FOR: GEORGE STAPLE

Coppers' friend hunts Sumitomo's lost billions

Monday GEORGE Staple is an unlikely fraud-buster. Tall, slim and with urbane good looks, the director of Britain's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) might be more at home amid the ivory towers of academia than sitting on the ninth floor of a hurly-burly central London office which, in common with its fellow civil investigators, is currently wrestling with the machinations of the world's copper markets. Sumitomo, the Japanese conglomerate, appears to have lost somewhere between \$1.8 billion and \$3 billion.

What the FBI in America and the Ministry of Justice in Japan, want to establish is whether Sumitomo's losses were the result of a massive and complex fraud spanning the global copper markets, with London as its centre. Or were they, as has been alleged, produced by one man, Yasuo Hamanaka. Sumitomo's former chief copper trader?

As you would expect from a man who has spent his working life in the legal profession, rising to become senior litigation partner at Clifford Chance, one of the City's top law firms, Staple is reluctant to speculate on the possible outcome of "Operation Copper". To do so now could jeopardise any future prosecution.

In the same way, mention of high-profile SFO trials such as Guinness, still rumbling on in the European courts, Maxwell, Roger Levis, for which Staple received a roasting from the Commons Treasury Select Committee, Brent Walker and Blue Arrow elicit the response on prosecutions in general that "nobody has the monopoly on wisdom. We take some very difficult decisions based on the facts before us. In every case we try to satisfy ourselves on the evidence we have that there is a realistic prospect of a conviction before going to court. At the end of the day, that is a judgment we take at a relatively early stage. Secondly, we must consider whether it is in the public interest to prosecute. That is the basis on which all our cases proceed."

Reverting back to copper, Staple, 56 and father of four aged between 27 and 17, says: "The copper investigation is in a sense a classic case for us. It involves a number of jurisdictions, national and market sensitivities and other very complex issues."

The SFO is believed to have been passed the Sumitomo

Robert Miller meets the man whose staple diet is catching global fraudsters in the act

copper file at one of the regular meetings it has with the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the City's top civil watchdog that is conducting its own investigation into the scandal. These are early days, insists Staple, in what promises to be a lengthy process. Even if the fraud office concludes that there is no case to answer, the evidence it has gathered could be offered to prosecutors in other countries.

Staple's week began with an extensive debrief with Andrew Jackson, the in-house SFO lawyer assigned to the case and who returned last Sunday from a trip to Japan, where he had meetings with officials from the Ministry of Justice as well as Sumitomo. The copper investigation is also a chance for Staple to test the new command structure that he introduced at Easter. A lawyer heads each investigation and works with a forensic accountant, in this case Michael O'Brien Kenney, who was on the SFO's Barings case, and a police officer who in this instance is Detective Chief Inspector Michael Fox from the City of London fraud squad. The other 78 cases on the SFO's books are run on similar lines. The constantly changing element is the police who are drafted in from the local or regional fraud squad

in whichever part of the country the alleged offence took place. Not having its own police force to work with the in-house lawyers and accountants, and to be interchangeable as needs dictate, is perhaps the SFO's weakest point. Staple says: "I have lawyers and accountants but the other major part of the job is the police. It would be helpful to have police, not necessarily to join the SFO as a permanent career, but perhaps for eight years or so. We have had some excellent joint investigations with fraud squads around the country but that really is no substitute for having police officers directly accountable to the SFO."

Since it was spawned by the Criminal Justice Act 1987, the SFO has been the target of constant criticism. From the early days, that noted SFO-watcher, *Slicker*, of *Private Eye*, dubbed it the Serious Farce Office, with good reason, while others called it the Seriously Flawed Office. Many fraud squad officers felt — and in some quarters still do — that the SFO is run by bean-counters and pen-pushers who believe they can cope without the police. One experienced officer said of the fraud office: "We don't have the academic approach to the job as they do at the SFO, what we do out here is for real."

On the rumblings about events that took place under John Wood and later Barbara Mills, QC, now Director of Public Prosecutions, Staple notes that his predecessors were "feeling their way through uncharted territory". Before the Criminal Justice Act and its sister legislation, the Financial Services Act 1986, areas of the City appeared, to outsiders at least, as very much a free-for-all. But in the late Eighties, the world's stock markets went electronic and London was at the centre of a global 24-hour trading cycle. To attract the right sort of business, and to protect private investors, the City had to be seen as a well-supervised and properly regulated market — hence the SFO and the SIB and its fellow watchdogs.

But the SFO is undergoing a rehabilitation based on sound statistical evidence and a far greater willingness to be open about its role in fighting fraud. Its success rate in prosecutions is impressive given the complex nature of fraud. In some 79 per cent of all SFO cases that reach the courts at least one defendant has been convicted, usually the principle one, while overall, 63 per cent of all defendants prosecuted since April 1988 have been convicted.

The recent extension to the SFO's powers, which removes a witness's right to silence under Section 2 of the Act, has been used to foster better links with overseas agencies, a prerequisite in the fight against international fraudsters.

Many have criticised the Section 2 powers as draconian. Staple says some witnesses, such as bankers bound by professional codes of confidentiality, welcome the chance to give evidence when confronted with a section 2 notice.

On the question of juries, the SFO director is circumspect on whether complex trials such as those undertaken by the fraud office should have specially selected jurors or panels to assess the evidence. He points out that a

Royal Commission three years ago called for more research into how juries reach their verdicts, yet there has been little action to date.

The Hailbury-educated Staple, who admits to watching Arsenal matches with his two sons, accepts that his job will place him in the spotlight, though he added wistfully that "obscurity is lovely". Of his rough ride with MPs over the Levis case, he argues that it would be helpful if the committee had indicated some of the questions they wanted to ask beforehand — this would have led to better and more precise answers being given.

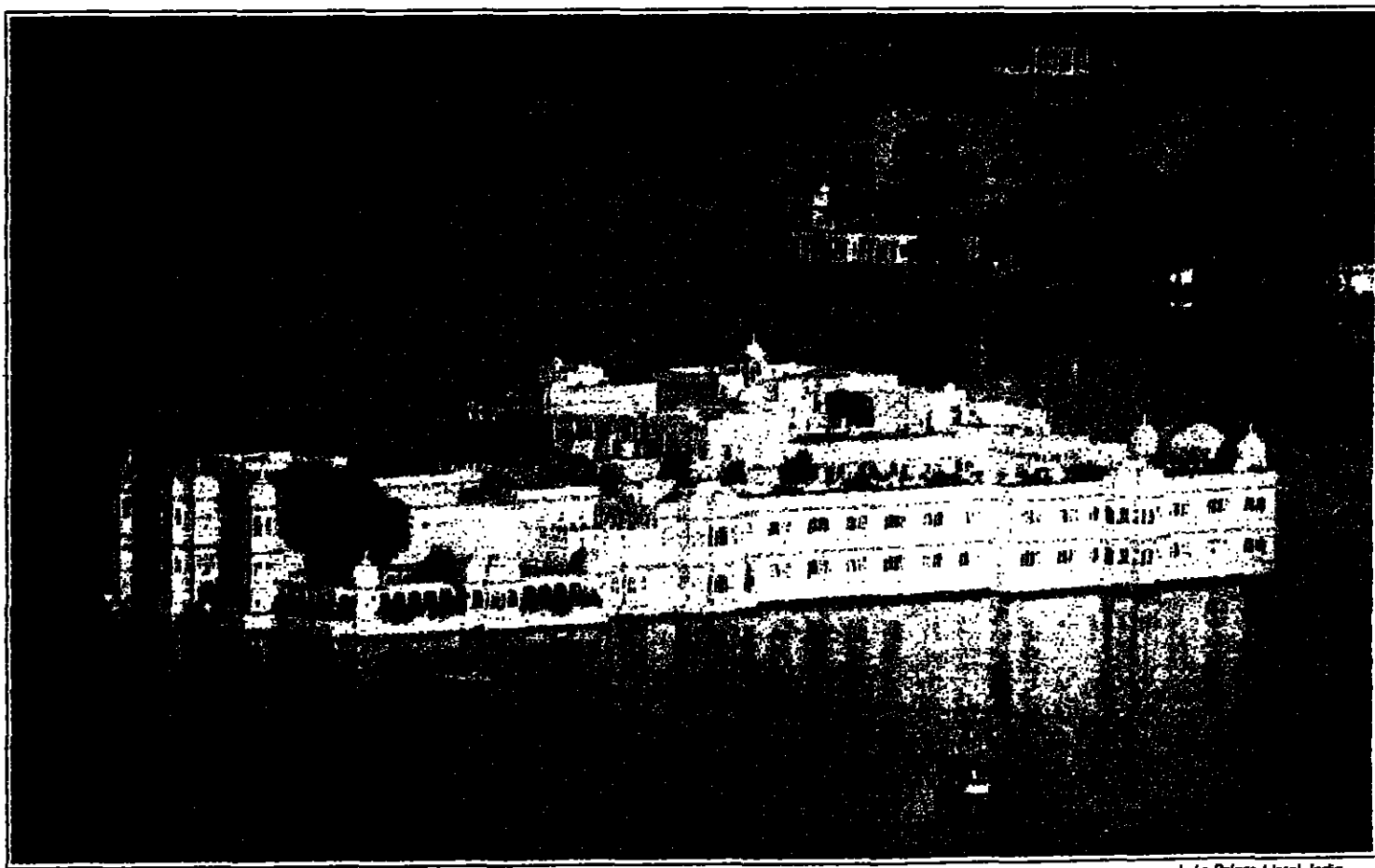
Nor has Staple, who on a salary of £104,000, took a significant payout to come to his current job, which he leaves next April, shrunk from difficult decisions. Over the Nick Leeson extradition case, he insisted, in the face of calls for the rogue trader to be brought back to the UK, that the fraud took place in a foreign jurisdiction and that Singapore was the appropriate place for the trial.

As we wrapped up Staple's working week with a photo session, someone asked whether he was happy with the pictures. He replied: "I haven't seen them and it doesn't matter really. If *The Times* want to write a nasty article they'll run a nasty picture. If they want to write a nice one they'll use a nice picture." Future SFO historians might well conclude that Staple deserves a sympathetic viewing.

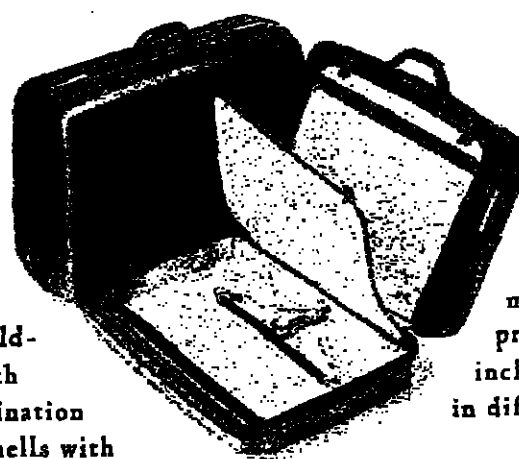


George Staple faces painstaking research in a complex investigation that spans the global copper market

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HIDDEN ASSETS

Inspiring collection free of investment tag

When Société Générale moved into its new London headquarters on the ninth and tenth floors of Exchange House in Broadgate in 1990, Roger Wellesley-Smith, then an executive director of the company and responsible for the move, judged that an office interior designed around a collection of inspirational contemporary art would be appropriate. He had £100,000 to spend and needed to acquire roughly one hundred works to fill the space.

He approached Long & Ryle, the art gallery in Piccadilly specialising in corporate collections, who took on the commission with Pringle Brandon, the architect.

"The commission turned into rather a wonderful and unusual act of patronage towards emerging young artists," says Sarah Long, of the gallery. "The bank wanted a collection that would reflect the nature of its business. The message was young, progressive and international. A lot of banks play very safe when it comes to corporate art collecting, but with Société Générale we were able to find young artists' works at degree shows and put together a collection that was unusual."

Levels of risk tolerance are famously low among London's venerable old banks, but just as Société Générale takes considered risks every day in the world's currency and fixed-income markets, so it has taken some bold risks in its choice of art. In the bank's entrance hall hangs a series of vast and striking works by Riccardo



The message is progressive

Cingoli, the Italian artist, in which naked and semi-clothed men and women ten-feet tall caper around a neo-classical background of columns, urns and foliage.

"The works are built up with layer upon layer of tissue papers. They were specially commissioned for the building," says Chris Brandon, the architect. "We were concerned that the nudity on such a large scale and right at the entrance might raise eyebrows, but it has been amazingly well received."

Mr Wellesley-Smith clearly took some getting used to the idea. "The first time I saw Riccardo's work, I was fairly stunned, even with a glass of champagne in the Long & Ryle gallery. It can evoke surprisingly powerful moods with its strong shapes and

colours. But it incorporated an element of neo-classicism with contemporary ideas, which we hope sums up the image of Société Générale. We didn't want anything wishy-washy; we wanted to give out a strong feeling of progress and I think this collection does so."

He warned to the Cinallis and then approved a wide selection of other works by young artists. "A couple of the pieces put me off initially, but I love our final choice. It's terribly exciting and ranges so enormously."

In the dealing room, which sits literally above the railway tracks of Liverpool Street Station and is one of the largest in Europe, Long & Ryle commissioned Alison Lambert to paint a series of figures which hang suspended from the ceiling. As a result dealers beaver away beneath a brightly coloured frieze of capital cities, barely noticing its presence.

It is the directors and senior executives who perhaps appreciate the collection most, as they plot strategy in boardrooms hung with strikingly bright oils by Vanda Harvey and Lucy Ross.

"The basic architectural interiors are very simple so as not to detract from the pictures," says Mr Brandon. But what best released the collection from the burden of high expense and from pressures to conform was the broad-mindedness of the bank and the decision that the art was not to be bought primarily with investment in mind. The result is refreshing and inspiring.

JOANNA PITTMAN

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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BABY BLUES 34

The high cost of childcare for working parents

WEEKEND MONEY

FLYING THE FLAG 41

Reach for the sky with BA and BAA shares



Rocky road of student travel cover

It's a bit of a scramble finding the right policy at the right price, says Sara McConnell

The mass exodus is beginning. Students liberated from end-of-year exams are packing up and leaving for long trips abroad. Travel insurance is likely to be well down their list of priorities.

But cover for long trips at a reasonable cost takes some tracking down, as twins Louise and Clair Shaw have found. They are leaving for Colorado at the end of this month for an eight-week field trip mapping rocks as part of their geology degree at Durham University. But so far they have had a fruitless search for travel insurance.

Louise explained: "What we will be doing is not quite mountaineering, more a bit of climbing and scrambling. We will be spending eight weeks in the Rockies, living over a mile high and climbing 500 to 600 feet a day. We'll be attached to the University of Colorado and their staff will be with us."

Thomas Cook's initial quotation for the twins immediately doubled as soon as the mountain activities were mentioned. STA, the student specialists, quoted about £70 but doubled this to cover walking and scrambling. Both insurers said these counted as climbing and loaded the premium accordingly.

Weekend Money offered to do some research on the Shaws' behalf.

Worldwide Travel Insurance (01732-773366). Worldwide's Long Stay plan provides cover for between two and 18 months, but can be extended at the company's discretion. It would charge the Shaws £43 each for basic cover and £63 each for extended cover. It does not include baggage in its basic cover, arguing that most students do not travel with expensive clothes or jewellery. Cancellations and curtailments and legal expenses are also excluded.

Both policies include £5 million of medical insurance, £15,000 of personal accident cover, £2 million of personal liability and £250 for loss of passport. Mountain walking would be covered at no extra cost.

Inter Assurance (01252-717766). It also has several levels of cover for up to four months. The Shaws would pay £49 for the most basic, bronze, cover which includes cover of £1 million for medical expenses, £500,000 for emergency repatriation and £10,000 for personal accident. It has no cover for personal liability, which could prove an expensive mistake in the US. Silver cover, the next level up, would cost £53, and includes £1 million of personal liability and £25,000 of legal expenses.

It does not cover baggage, delays or cancellations. Gold Plus would cost the Shaws £67

and includes cover for luggage and cancellations, as well as £10 million medical expenses. Mountain walking or scrambling would not cost extra.

Columbus (0171-422-5505). Columbus' basic Globetrotter policy, with no extra charge for mountain scrambling, would cost the Shaws £43, including £1 million of medical expenses, £1 million personal liability and £10,000 of legal expenses. The more expensive Worldwide Standard policy, which includes £5 million of medical cover as well as £500 for baggage, would cost £58.

STA (0171-361-6100). STA was mystified when told Louise Shaw had been quoted a loaded premium for mountain walking and said this would not cost extra. The cost for the Shaws would be £70 for a standard policy which would include £1 million of medical insurance, £500,000 of personal liability cover and cover for luggage and cancellation.

Thomas Cook (01733 503222). For eight weeks Thomas Cook would charge £109.85. This does not include a loading for mountain walking and has unlimited medical cover, £2 million of personal public liability insurance and cover for luggage, cancellations, legal expenses and loss of passport.



Boulder-bound: Marytwins Louise and Clair Shaw can't wait to get to Colorado

Pearl lifts hopes for bonus rush

Pearl's announcement yesterday that it is to pay a special bonus to its with-profits life and pensions policyholders has raised hopes that other life companies may take the same route (Marianne Curphey writes).

Within the past year some of the big life insurers have looked into ways of redistributing the surplus funds in their life policies. These so-called "orphan assets" have been built up over the fund's life.

They are amounts in a with-profits life fund beyond what is needed to meet the reasonable expectations of policyholders. They have accrued because past profits from investments have exceeded the actual payouts given to policyholders, and the maximum management fee has not always been charged to the life fund. Profit is also made from early surrenders.

Among listed life companies, the orphan assets arise because shareholders originally put up equity capital to support the development of the long-term insurance fund. The whole life industry is estimated to have a surplus of between £35 billion and £40 billion.

Subject to approval from the Department of Trade and Industry, Pearl is to declare a special bonus totalling £350 million, which will be split 60:10 between policyholders and shareholders. Bonuses will be added to policies held by approximately two million qualifying policyholders later this year.

In March the Prudential, Britain's biggest life insurer, announced it had begun talks with the Department of Trade over redistributing surplus assets. Last month Pru said discussions were "ongoing". A number of companies have declared bonuses or have started talks with the DTI, including Legal & General, London & Manchester, Britannic and Refuge. Pearl said policyholders have an average 4.4 policies each, which means they are in line for several bonus payouts.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Students learn lesson in debt

Students owe nearly £2,000 on average to banks, their parents and the Student Loan Company, a third more than last year, according to Barclays Bank's latest student debt survey.

However, students are becoming increasingly resourceful in the face of dwindling grants and growing debts. More of them are adopting US-style college survival tactics, using their own savings earned through working before they go up to university and continuing to work part-time once they get there.

Barclays found that more than half of first-year students had saved to go to university, with an average fund of £1,074 each. During term, growing numbers of students take part-time jobs to keep their debts under control and pay

for a social life, working for 12 hours a week and earning £52 on average. In spite of the pressures of finals, third-year students were most likely to be working part-time to pay off accumulating debts. More women took part-time jobs than men.

Parents are also proving a valuable and generous source of funds, with 36 per cent of students saying that their parents are their main source of income, compared with 34 per cent last year. Even more generously, many parents appear to expect no repayment. Just 8 per cent of students' total debt, £156 on average, was owed to parents.

Borrowing from banks as a proportion of overall debt has also dropped, falling to 18 per cent this year, from 25 per cent in 1992. Much more is owed to

the Student Loan Scheme. A majority of students owe an average of £1,324 to the scheme, an increase of 36 per cent on last year and the largest single debt for most students. The maximum loan for someone living away from home in London in 1996-97 will be £2,035 for a full year. Out of London, the maximum is £1,645. Interest is added each year at the rate of inflation for the previous year and the loan has to be repaid over a fixed five-year or seven-year period, depending on the length of the course.

But only 10 per cent of respondents said that the Student Loan Scheme was their main source of income. Nearly half the students questioned still relied mostly on shrinking stu-

dent grants, even though the maximum on offer for a student living away from home in London will be £2,105 and the maximum outside London will be £1,710.

Students confessed to being resigned to debt, but 39 per cent also said that they were "worried, concerned or angry" that they were being forced into debt. In some cases, according to Alison Roylance, student business officer for Barclays at Manchester Metropolitan University, the cost of hall fees for the year can wipe out the whole of a student's annual grant in one fell swoop. She said: "The greatest financial concerns for students are simply meeting day to day living expenses, particularly accommodation".

SARA MCCONNELL

When the many are the few

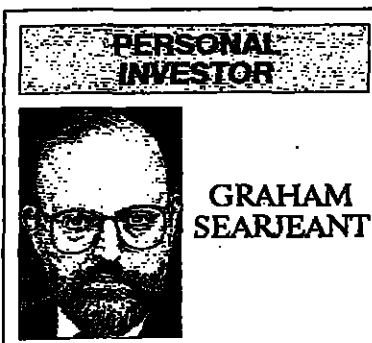
Tony Blair's mark 0 manifesto is about attitudes more than actions. It is designed to show that Labour really is new. Principles that would dictate policy as events unfold in a matter more in the end than a few commitments ahead of time. On the economy, collectivist democratic socialism has been replaced by the vaguer "stakeholder" idea of "an economy run for the many and not the few".

What does this mean in practice? Private investors need to know the answer to one question in particular: are we the many or the few?

About 10 million British people own shares individually, rather than just through trusts and funds. The number varies, rising with the latest privatisation or popular flotation, edging back down towards nine to nine-and-a-half million in between. This summer, Railtrack and British Energy will swell numbers a bit. Before Gordon Brown could draw up a post-election Budget, it should reach a new peak, nearer 12 to 14 billion, after a mass of top building society conversions.

On the face of it, this puts private shareholders firmly among the many. After all, there are a comparable 11.1 million men or 10.9 million women in employment. Individual shareholders outnumber people who work in manufacturing by two-and-a-half to one, and outnumber the self-employed three to one. These are scarcely the privileged few.

Like any other party, Labour promises to promote savings and investment. Clearly, savings are for the many and a good thing. If savers invest in company



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

shares, however, it looks as though they would be transformed magically into the few, regardless of numbers.

In principle, Labour is not hostile to private business. In practice, it has besieged the biggest single business sector — utilities. Most have been privatised, so the bills we have to pay for basic household services now go to make private profit for "the few". This populist campaign has been a good little vote earner. But it has strong implications for how Labour might behave in office. The vast majority of small shareholders have holdings in privatised utilities, many in nothing else.

Of the 20 companies with the most shareholders, 12 were in the public sector in 1984, when British Telecom became the first privatisation designed to be sold to the mass of ordinary people. Nearly 2.4 million still own shares in BT. British Gas has about 1.7 million, National Power and Powergen about 2.2 million between them, and the remain-

ing independent regional water and electricity companies a similar number.

For a government in need, a levy on utilities that have made windfall gains can be justified pragmatically, like Lord Howe's 1981 levy on banks that made windfall profits on current accounts from a jump in interest rates. Some utilities have made windfalls.

Most electricity and some water groups have paid billions in special capital dividends, implying they did not need all the money with which they were endowed. They could meet a £3 billion levy, if it really was a one-off. Others, such as British Gas and BT, have done badly for investors already, thanks to hostile changes in state policy.

Labour's utility monopolies levy still appears to apply to all, according to Mr Brown, because they have made "excess" profits. Clearly, he is as eager to punish shareholders as to raise cash.

Attempts to identify these or other companies with "fat cat" directors, who are quintessentially the few, will not fool the many. Tories, who melded the identity of interest of companies and ordinary savers through mass privatisations, have forgotten it. No wonder Labour seeks to undo the link between the saver and the company that provides the returns on saving. What is true for utilities now would be true for others under the financial pressures of office.

Before Mr Blair writes his real manifesto, he needs to decide whether small investors would be us, or still them, under new Labour.

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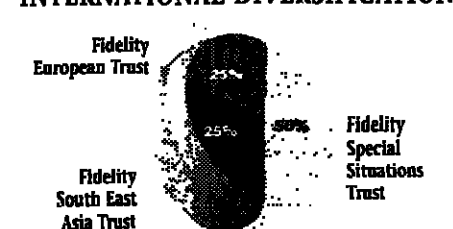
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Karen Zagor offers daunting calculations on the subject of babysitting

How working parents feel the bite of paying for childcare

FEW parents will be shocked by a report, published last week, showing that a dearth of affordable, quality childcare is keeping women out of the workforce. But a survey, conducted for *The Times* by KPMG, makes sobering reading for those contemplating trying to balance work and family life.

We tend to think of our income in gross (pre-tax) terms, while thinking of our expenses in net (post-tax) terms. To calculate the true cost of child care, you need to remember that the amount you pay out each week comes out of taxed income. If you are paying someone £600 a month to look after your child, your annual outgoings are £7,200, but you will need to earn far more than that if you want to maintain your pre-child standard of living and still pay for child care. These figures do not include the additional expense of feeding and clothing a child, never mind the cost of books, toys and occasional travel.

According to the Daycare Trust, a childminder is one of the least expensive options available to working parents, with estimated costs ranging from £50 to £120 a week for a full-time place. A basic-rate taxpayer paying £50 a week would have to earn an extra £3,421 a year, before tax, just to pay for the childcare, according to the KPMG figures. To cover £120 a week, a basic-rate taxpayer would need a pay rise of £8,210, while a higher-rate taxpayer would have to earn an extra £10,400.

Working parents are feeling the bite. Amanda and Andrew Spalding both had satisfying careers before embarking on a family. When their baby Helen was four months old, she started to attend the Fleet Street Nursery, which is quite reasonable, by London standards, charging £145 a week. Although the Spaldings both have comparatively good incomes, they are still feeling the pinch. Ms Spalding says: "You have to earn a lot more when you pay for childcare to make it viable. The big crunch time comes when you want another child. The cost of two nursery places, even for high earners,



Feeling the pinch: Amanda and Andrew Spalding are paying £145 a week to have baby Helen looked after carefully at the Fleet Street Nursery

is prohibitive." Indeed, you would need to earn more than the average salary just to cover the cost of having two children full-time at a mid-range private nursery.

Elspeth May, personal financial services partner at KPMG, notes that there are dangers in having to earn more in order to pay for childcare. "For example, someone who is a basic-rate taxpayer, but close to the higher-rate threshold, could be taken into the 40 per cent band by the additional income they would need to generate to cover child minding costs."

Ms Spalding, a freelance consultant at Reuters, believes parents who pay for child care should be able to write off the expense against tax. Most parents would argue that paying someone to look after your child so you can return to work is a legitimate business expense, and you are also essentially paying another person's

salary out of your own taxed income. Ms Spalding says: "As things stand, they make it very difficult to go back to work. The odds are stacked against women."

Part of the problem is that you cannot hunt for bargain basement prices of child care the way you might with other consumer services.

"It's not like leaving your car in the garage," said Ms Spalding. "A baby can't speak and can't tell you what happened during the day. You need to find someone with the right qualifications and experience who will put the child first and deliver the right level of care and love. I have friends who have had terrible experiences with child care."

So what are the options available to parents and how much more will they have to earn to cover the costs?

A childminder is someone who is registered with the

local authority and who looks after no more than three children under the age of five in his or her own home. Estimated costs range from £50 to £120 a week, which translates into added income requirements of £3,421 to £8,210 for a basic-rate taxpayer and £4,333 to £10,400 for a higher earner.

A nanny looks after your child in your own home. Costs vary wildly, depending on where you live, whether the nanny is living in and whether the nanny has any formal qualifications.

Estimated costs range from £80 to £260 a week. A basic-rate taxpayer would need a pay rise of £5,474 to cover the cheapest nanny, rising to a staggering £17,789 to pay for the most expensive.

The picture is even bleaker for higher-rate taxpayers, who need to earn an extra £6,933 to £22,533 to cover the cost of a

nanny. To make matters worse, anyone who employs a nanny is responsible for their tax and national insurance payments. This usually adds about a third extra to the cost.

Nurseries allow for a large number of children to be looked after away from their homes. Private day nurseries charge about £70 to £180 a week for a full-time place.

For a basic-rate taxpayer, this means earning between £4,789 and £12,316 a year gross just to cover the costs. Higher-rate taxpayers would need to generate extra income of between £6,066 and £15,600 to pay for one nursery place.

Community or council nurseries may be less expensive. Some offer a sliding scale, depending on income, with free places for the children of people on income support and those in crisis. For someone in employment, a place in a

community or council nursery could cost up to £150 a week. This means earning an extra £10,253 a year for a basic-rate taxpayer and £13,000 for a higher-rate taxpayer.

Children can go to playgroups for up to five sessions a week for a few hours every day. The Preschool Learning Alliance estimates average charges at £2.25 per session.

On a five-day-a-week basis, this can add up to £585 a year. A basic-rate taxpayer would need to earn £770 to cover the cost, while a higher-rate taxpayer would need to earn £975.

Daycare Trust is publishing a comprehensive guide to childcare (funded by Midland Bank) - *Childcare: Check Out Childcare*, later this month. For information, contact the trust at a Wild Court, London WC2B 4AU; tel: 0171 405 5617, or send a cheque for £5.

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Legal aid system takes lead from internal market

Sweeping measures to change the way legal aid is awarded were unveiled by the Government this week. This is the biggest shake-up of the scheme since its creation 46 years ago and a White Paper has set out the first controls on what has always been a demand-led scheme. Weekend Money looks at the effects.

Q What is new about the proposals?

A For the first time, defendants will be asked to pay a fixed sum, possibly up to £20, for legal help in criminal and civil courts. Everyone, except those on benefits, will have to make a minimum contribution. The aim is to discourage frivolous lawsuits. Anyone who loses a civil case will be liable to pay the winner's costs, which they rarely do at the moment.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern hopes to introduce legislation in the autumn to impose cash limits on the £1.4 billion scheme. The Bill would also bring in a merit test, so that only the most deserving cases would be funded.

In effect, the plans will introduce elements of the private sector and an internal market similar to that now operating within the National Health Service.

Q Who would provide the service?

A The Legal Aid Board would award block contracts with fixed prices to law firms and advice bureaux. Legal firms would no longer be paid on hourly rates, and the proposals include a flat-rate fee in civil and family cases, payable by all. Insurance companies are likely to enter the market to offer schemes mixing public and private funds to back legal actions.

In addition, legal advice on a "no win no fee" basis may play a significant part in cases. There will be an upper limit on contributions from individuals, and there may be a time limit set for payments. The Legal Aid Board will be able to recover any outstanding costs from the future sale of a legally aided person's house.

Q What do the critics say about the scheme?

A The Law Society says poor people would be hit hardest and litigants would face a lifetime of debt if they lost their case. There are suggestions that the move would lead to a "two-tier" system of justice, one for the rich and one for the poor. There have also been claims that it restricts choice and fails to increase eligibility for help with funding cases. In response, ministers believe that lawyers have a vested interest

in keeping legal aid bills high and encouraging them to increase.

Q How does the present system work?

A At the moment, people can secure a handout so long as they are poor enough and can claim "reasonable grounds" for going to court. Under Lord Mackay's plans the budget will be capped in advance, so the Legal Aid Board knows exactly how much cash is available each year. Currently, only half of households in Britain qualify for legal aid, compared with 70 per cent in the early 1980s.

Q Which people might be excluded?

A Foreigners living overseas would no longer get help with their cases. This follows a number of high profile cases where legal aid was felt to have been inappropriate. They include the German Andreas Pavel, who sued Sony claiming that he was the true inventor of the Walkman, and Jawad Hashim, one-time aide to Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, who was given £4 million to defend a £34 million civil fraud claim, even though he had six homes. A special unit will investigate "apparently wealthy" applicants.

Q How long will the proposals take to be implemented?

A Some of the proposals do not need legislation and are already being implemented. Advice agencies are to be brought under the scheme immediately, so that they can be awarded contracts in the same way as franchised law firms are now. Others will be phased in over several years. Legislation is needed for the new merit test and the rules to make people contribute towards their legal aid fees. Officials hope to cover the reforms in one Bill.

Q What are the current costs?

A In 1995-96 legal aid cost the taxpayer £1.4 billion, twice as much as five years ago. The average cost of legal aid bills has risen more than the rate of inflation and stands at nearly £2,500. However, fewer people are helped by the scheme. The Government believes that the reforms will find favour with the public, especially those all-important voters in Middle England, on the grounds of giving the taxpayer better value for money and ensuring that middle-income groups are not vulnerable to an open-ended legal aid ticket to sue.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Not all corporate bond Peps are equal



Kenneth Clarke barred financial services

A year ago today, the corporate bond personal equity plan (Pep) was born, without much celebration and amid considerable controversy. Although some £1.3 billion has now been invested in this latest member of the Pep family, concerns remain.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the yields offered by different plans cannot easily be compared, as not all fund management groups take into account their charges in yield calculations. These charges include initial and annual fees, which can have a large impact on the overall return.

Any investor asking for this information would be unlikely to receive clear answers.

Jason Hollands, of BEST Investment, the Pep research house, said: "Even we have difficulty obtaining this data, as some groups seem incapable of calculating the gross

redemption yield figure. We think that the City watchdogs should address this problem."

"We are also concerned that so many of the yields used on Pep brochures are out of date. Investors should be aware that the yield is not fixed. It fluctuates with the values of the bonds held in the Pep."

The possibility of misleading yields was among the problems anticipated in July 1995 when corporate bond Peps made their debut. Their launch had been delayed by taxation arguments and differences of opinion over which types of bond should be eligible. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had ruled that bonds from financial companies would not be eligible, as Peps were intended to provide finance for industry, not for the financial services sector. Despite protestations, his view finally prevailed. From the outset, there were concerns that the

new plans would be too risky for their target market, the disaffected building society saver. Corporate bond Peps invest in the fixed interest stocks that are issued by companies as a way of raising money. Although the rate of interest is fixed, the prices of bonds vary with the fortunes of the company.

A year later, the promise that bonds would pay a higher income than building societies had held true, with £1,000 invested earning an average £71 interest, twice that earned in a building society. But anyone choosing a bond still needs help. BEST Investment (0171-321-0100) publishes a free guide to the best buys. For a free factsheet, contact the Association of Unit Trust and Investment funds (0181-207 1361).

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COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

In training for the opening of windfall season

BY WAY of consolation for football and tennis defeats, low interest rates and other disappointments, we can look forward to a new season of a favourite national sport, spot the windfall. Thousands of policyholders and savers, enough to fill Wembley dozens of times over, can participate, without training, or special skills.

Following Legal & General, Pearl is now set to redistribute its orphan assets, the sad name given to those funds which are in excess of its liabilities. With a payout in prospect, most of Pearl's with-profit, life and pension policyholders can feel more sanguine about the company's middling investment performance. Those whose policies matured before July 4 are currently excluded. But they have time to mount a protest.

Pearl's announcement should serve as a spur to the Prudential and to Royal which are considering similar schemes. Policyholders at mutual insurers, such as Friends Provident and NPI, need not feel left out of the fun. A potential buyer for these businesses has emerged this week in the shape of the newly combative Woolwich Building Society.

Under John Stewart, its replacement chief executive, the society is determined to be seen as the aggressor. It is also eager to arrive at the stock market as soon as possible. This means that the four million members should get their free shares by July.

A bid, possibly of the hostile variety, for the Woolwich may still intervene, but customers gain either way. The 700,000 plus savers with Birmingham Midshires Building Society can also take heart. Like his predecessor, Mr Stewart would not be averse to a link with this society.

What other sport offers such possibilities?

Nice rates for some

WHICHEVER bank he chooses to patronise for his £15 million divorce loan, the Prince of Wales can be sure of a favourable deal. The heir to the throne will be able to borrow at very close to the base rate, paying about 6.75 per cent. There will also be no question of the payment protection insurance, so assiduously sold to the commoner, on the presumption that the future monarch's ability to repay and livelihood is assured.

These attractive rates should make the average mortal focus on the current range of car and personal loans. Looking at these rates — which range upwards from 14 per cent — should cause not an upsurge of Republicanism but fury that banks can still claim that a 16 per cent loan is a bargain buy.

The fault, however, lies in part with the public. A recent bank survey showed that three-quarters of those with personal loans had little idea what rate they were paying. A general ignorance about credit card terms also applies. In familiar fashion, most leading credit card companies have been slow to cut their rates, claiming that research shows we prefer extra services to lower interest bills.

While we continue to be so imobservant, and apparently so unconcerned, the banks will be more than happy to take advantage of our inertia.

Ups and downs of escalators

IN THEORY, the term escalator bond is certainly ambiguous, but, to date, not in practice. The thousands of fans of these popular savings accounts have always presumed that their income will rise each year for the three or five-year term of the bond. But, in the same way that escalators travel up or down, new escalator bonds are emerging which hold no guarantee of growth. You can, in fact, be left standing still.

As we report on page 39, the new Escalator Bond, being sold by the Newcastle Building Society, is linked to two stock market indices, the FT-SE 100 and the American S&P 500. Only if both indices rise, will the initial investment grow. The Newcastle may, if it pleases, offer a stock market bond. However, it should not disguise such an investment as a risk-free savings account, with a name that gives the promise of progress.

Can you spare me £20m or so?

Caroline Merrell finds out how much it costs to join the ranks of big borrowers

A settlement appears close in the protracted divorce negotiations of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Prince, it is rumoured, is preparing to pay £15 to £20 million in a lump sum rather than making annual payments to his spouse of 15 years. A *Weekend Money* survey found that this arrangement, preferred by the Princess, could cost her husband about £1 million in annual interest payments on a £15 million loan. According to Frances Hughes, head of family law at Bates Wells Braithwaite, the solicitors, a lump sum of this size would represent a generous settlement for a spouse of Diana's age. She added: "Clean-break settlements of this size are not unheard of, although they are rarer for younger women."

The banks we asked had, in theory, nothing against lending this amount but were keen to emphasise that the terms of the loan would depend on the person. They would consider any assets, money or investments and their credit rating.

Only Midland was willing to say what it would charge for a loan of this size. A spokesman said: "The lowest interest rate we would charge on a

loan of this size would be 0.35 per cent over base rate, which would be 6.1 per cent. This rate would only be offered to those considered low risk."

If Prince Charles fell into this category, his annual interest payments would start off at about £915,000. At the other end of the scale, for higher risk individuals, the rate would be 5 per cent above base, a rate of 10.75 per cent.

Colin Goodhead, of Lloyds, said: "£15 million is more of a business proposition than a personal one. Many things would have to be taken in to consideration including adequate security: the highest being cash."

Courts, the blue-blooded private bank, refused to comment whether it was prepared to lend £15 million. A spokeswoman said: "The rates on all large loans would be individually negotiated. A large loan would be anything over £100,000. We do not have any published tariffs, the lending criteria would depend on the relationship we had with the customer and the terms of the repayment."

Those with more modest borrowing needs have three options. They can arrange a



Together — yet apart the Prince and Princess of Wales before the divorce settlement became a sticking point

personal loan, take out an authorised overdraft or borrow on their credit card.

Interest rates on personal loans will vary according to the lender and the time given to repay the loan. For example, the Midland would charge those borrowing £5,000 over five years a rate of 14.9 per cent. Monthly repayments on a loan of this size would be

about £116.27. The total repaid over the five years would be £6,975. Over three years, monthly repayments would be £170, and the total repaid would be £6,149.

Borrowers are also given the option of taking out loan-protection insurance. This cover would increase the monthly premiums to £195 for a three-year loan, £138 for a five-year

The personal loan rate compares with 16 per cent charged for an authorised overdraft, and 24.6 per cent for an unauthorised overdraft.

Lloyds Bank would charge 14.9 per cent for the same type of loan. Monthly repayments would be £116, or £139.85 with loan insurance. Its authorised overdraft rate is 15.8 per cent, while its unauthorised rate is

26.8 per cent, with no fee. TSB offers a discount on personal loans. For £5,000 loan would attract 1 per cent discount, bringing the rate down to 15.9 per cent. NatWest charges 15.9 per cent on a £5,000 loan. Monthly repayments on this would be £118.

For more personal loan rates, see page 36.

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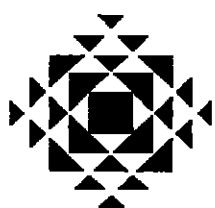
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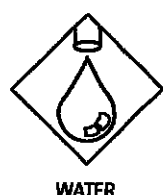
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Anne Ashworth on how political forces are affecting the stock market

Election fever has the City in a sweat

The preoccupations of Westminster and the City of London have seldom been more similar. Ask fund managers about the first-half performance of the stock market and their forecasts for the remainder of the year and the discussion immediately turns to the general election. The speculation surrounds Tony Blair's plans for the corporate sector and how much more Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, will do to stimulate the economy.

Some managers see the Chancellor's low interest rate policy as purely cynical, especially as it does not coincide with the wishes of Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. But being realists they would not expect Mr Clarke to act otherwise, especially with an election in prospect.

Helped by the improving economy, some managers predict that the FT-SE 100 index will be as much as 5 per cent higher by Christmas. Another boost could be the return to the market of institutional investors who have recently been selling shares. Others, like Rosemary Bain, investment director at the Gerrard Vivian Gray, the broker, see little reason why shares should be any higher than they are now.

Ms Bain said that the year to date had been marked by profit downgradings.

Ms Bain added: "Where companies have handed back cash to their shareholders, this money has not been going back into the UK stock market. It's been going into overseas markets and into gilts. Bid speculation is one of the few things that's holding up the market."

The FT-SE 100 index of leading shares reached a peak in April, boosted by takeover activity, falling interest rates and Wall Street's strong performance. Subsequently, the index has drifted listlessly.

Others take a more optimistic view, with some believing that if Labour has a commanding lead in the opinion polls towards the end of the year, a 'Blair rally' will result. However, some feel that politics will act to dampen the market.

Generously paid fund managers, with everything to fear personally from a party that has yet to declare its taxation intentions, are showing surprisingly little antipathy towards Mr Blair. His pronouncements to date have led most to believe that if new Labour gained power there would be no sweeping changes. They also like his pro-European stance — with one caveat. A fund manager explained: "The City wants a

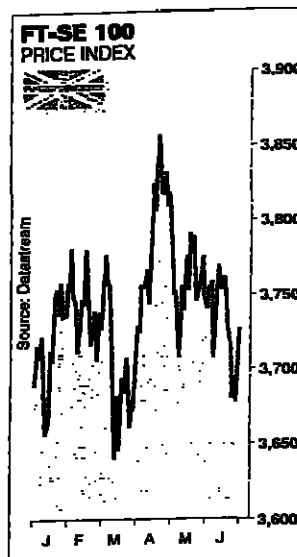
more sympathetic attitude towards Europe. But it does not support British membership of European monetary union."

Bill Mott, the highly successful manager of the UK funds at Credit Suisse, said: "The market is capped on the downside by improving corporate earnings and limited on the upside by political concerns."

Mr Mott predicts that if Labour takes power the overall level of the markets will remain largely unchanged. But various companies will come into favour, as a result of shifts in economic and taxation policy.

He said: "Some of the best-performing sectors of the market in recent years have been areas of long-term decline, such as banks, which have delivered shareholder values by cost-cutting, mergers and job losses. Labour may look at these companies and conclude that they have raised profits at the taxpayer's expense, laying off workers who then become social security claimants. A Labour Chancellor could then attempt to reverse this trend by giving special help to companies engaged in research and development and providing training. This would alter individual stock market valuations."

Ms Bain speculated that Lab-



our might alter the taxation of dividends, making it more attractive for companies to invest their profits, rather than distribute them among shareholders.

Mr Mott points out that anyone wishing to anticipate this shift in emphasis should be looking at manufacturing companies with organic growth potential, such as SmithKline Beecham: at companies providing service to growth industries, such as Reuter; and at smaller companies with a reputation for product innovation. However, he added: "Now may be just too early in the current 'feel-good' cycle."

One major fund manager said that, over the next six months, he will be steering clear of utility stocks, anticipating a tougher regulatory regime under Labour, instead buying UK manufacturing stocks.



New statesman: Tony Blair hoped to raise his international credentials with his visit to Bill Clinton this year

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while Sarah Jones looks at growth in emerging markets after recent 'indigestion'



The Mekong is just one of the more exotic places chosen for pioneering funds by British companies specialising in early state emerging markets

Foreign fields forever beckon

After a few years of what one fund manager calls "indigestion" the emerging markets have picked up over the last six months. The MSCI Index puts growth so far this year at 9.23 per cent, while other indices are as high as 12 per cent. Latin America and Asia both did well at 15 per cent and 11 per cent respectively but the index was pulled down by South Africa which declined 8 per cent. The outlook for the next six months is also optimistic.

In 1993 emerging markets grew a staggering 64 per cent. Partly in response to that and partly because of a crisis in Mexico, a dull couple of years followed. In 1994 and 1995 the

markets declined 15 to 20 per cent. "Since last autumn the emerging markets have started turning round and the period of indigestion is over," says Peter Scott, chief executive of Beta Funds. "But in that period emerging markets have grown up and are more sophisticated. We won't be seeing the extreme volatility from now on, which also means there won't be the spectacular growth of 1993."

The growing-up includes less reliance on the developed markets. Mr Scott says: "Emerging markets will still get a cold when the US sneezes but the ups and downs in line with US interest rates will be less extreme." Beta Funds specialises in what it

calls early state emerging markets and is currently pioneering funds in India, China and the Mekong. Cuba and Beirut. Other providers include countries some would consider developed rather than emerging such as Hong Kong and Singapore. Most managers, however, tend to concentrate on companies within regions rather than countries as a whole.

The recent growth is down to relief that problems are being sorted out in Latin America and to a number of individual countries performing particularly well, including Poland and Russia. The prospects are promising for the next six months. "Emerging markets are like someone who has

been in hospital — they are back at home but not yet back at work. They have had some catching up to do and we expect them to do more catching up over the next six months," says Douglas Adams, Templeton's marketing director. "There are good indicators like low inflation, strong growth and a trend towards liberalisation."

This week Schroders launched its Emerging Countries Fund investment trust, backing IMF forecasts that emerging countries will have annual growth rates more than double that of developed countries over the next three years. In particular Schroders is confident about India, Taiwan and Korea, Chile and Eastern Europe.

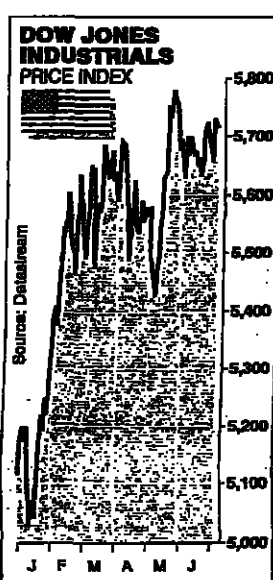
A US stunner — but will it all end in tears?

The United States was last year's market stunner, handsome growth, voluptuous profits and attractive dividends surprised the most optimistic observers — and the Dow raced from 4,000 to more than 5,000 over the year.

Over the past six months, the market has risen a further ten per cent, and warnings that a correction was overdue have been getting louder. But Hill Samuel Asset Management believes the market could rise by another five per cent by the end of the year, and predicts that the Dow might peak at 6,000 between now and December.

Katherine Jenkins, head of US equities at Hill Samuel, says the technology, retail and energy sectors have all performed well in the first half. She still expects technology to show some growth, and has high hopes for the service sector. "When at the beginning of the year we said we were expecting 10 per cent by the year-end, people howled with laughter," she said. "But it looks as though there could be even more growth to come."

John Wollock, who heads the US equities desk at Guinness Flight, says the success stories of 1996 have so far been the technology and small companies sector. The rest of the year could see fund managers switching out of equities into cash if the Fed raises interest rates. The current bull run has been buoyed up by the strength of biotechnology and Internet-related stocks, according to Justin Ur-



quhart Stewart of Barclays Stockbrokers. He expects retailing to remain strong, but growth in the mining sector to weaken.

The US presidential elections are due in November, which has caused some in the market to feel nervous. Mr Urquhart-Stewart says: "President Bill Clinton is naturally a spending president but his activities have been curbed by Congress. If he is re-elected, it will make very little difference to the markets because he will not be able to spend as much as he would like. If Dole gets to power, the market will be a little more pleased because the Republicans have traditionally been seen as more friendly towards Wall Street. However, neither can spend much because the US is trying to get its debt down."

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Inscrutable Japanese market is on the rise

At the beginning of each year, for the past five years, leading investment pundits have been tipping the Japanese market as poised for recovery. Anyone taking the advice of the tipsters would have been sorely disappointed with the returns they would have reaped from plunging their hard-earned cash in to Japanese shares.

However, over the last six to twelve months, this prophecy would have been correct. Since the beginning of the year, the Nikkei index, the leading barometer of the Japanese stock market, has risen by about 12.5 per cent. This rise, which began about 12 months ago, is seen by many as the turning point in the economy.

Over the last year, the Nikkei has risen by 50 per cent and now stands at a four-year high. Low inflation, practically deflation, low interest rates and streamlining by many of the Japanese companies has led to an influx of foreign money in to the shares of Japanese companies.

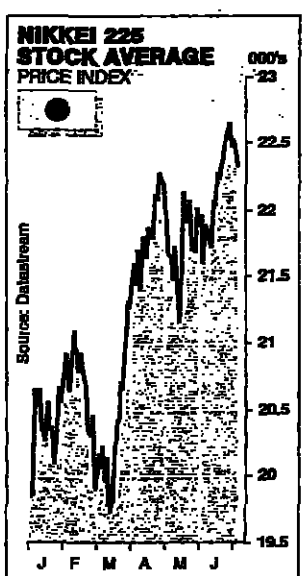
Unfortunately for those investing in Japanese funds over the last six months, this rise has largely been offset by weakness of Yen against sterling. The strength of sterling means that even if investment returns are good in the local currency, the profits will buy fewer pounds. Fund managers believe that the net returns for UK investors over the last six months would have been around zero. Over the next six months, however, many think the situation could be reversed and UK investors will begin to see some real returns on their investments.

Denis Clough, director at Schroder Investment Managers, said: "Some of the biggest gains have been in the manufacturing sector. Some of the electrical companies have

done well, as have some of the real estate companies. The economy does not need the Yen to weaken for the market to continue to recover in the second half of the year."

Mr Clough continues to be keen on the electrical sector and also believes that insurance companies could provide some good results. He said: "There is a possibility that there could be a rise in interest rates, which could help the insurance sector."

Charles Pridoux, Mercury



assistant director, echoes Mr Clough's view. He said: "Over the last six months, the stock market has been responding to a weaker Yen, and there is increased evidence of domestic recovery. We should see increased growth, consumption and capital investment. Profits earnings have been rising at around 20 per cent a year."

He said the best sectors to have been invested in over the last 12 months were related to cars and machinery. "Honda and Toyota have performed

very strongly — their share prices have come to life."

He, too, believed that electronics companies would continue to produce good returns for investors. He says the recovery in growth in these types of companies is because of increased demand for personal computers and mobile telephones.

Mark Fawcett, Gartmore senior fund manager, also emphasised the recovery in the property sector. "We are very positive about real estate," he said. "Land prices have been rising and the percentage of vacant office space has been falling. A year ago, 10 per cent of offices were vacant in Tokyo. This has now fallen to 5 per cent, and rental prices are now rising."

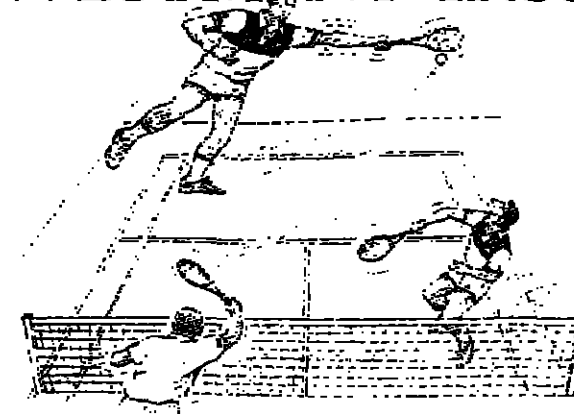
However, not all fund managers are bullish about the prospects for the Japanese economy. Andrew Hutchings, GT global funds co-ordinator, said: "I guess I believe that the land of the rising sun, is the land of falling prices and falling profits. Japan is still deep in a recession. Last year, for example, McDonald's cut the price of a Big Mac by a quarter. Over the last 12 months, car sales have been falling, and the growth of discount houses means the economy is really deflationary. On some measures, prices are down by 4 per cent."

Plummeting prices are not the only problem with which the Japanese businesses have had to contend. The Yen has fallen and the cost of imports is up."

He added: "The rally has been driven by optimistic foreigners. The recovery is a triumph of hope over reality. Japan is still mired in a great depression, and the rally will not continue."

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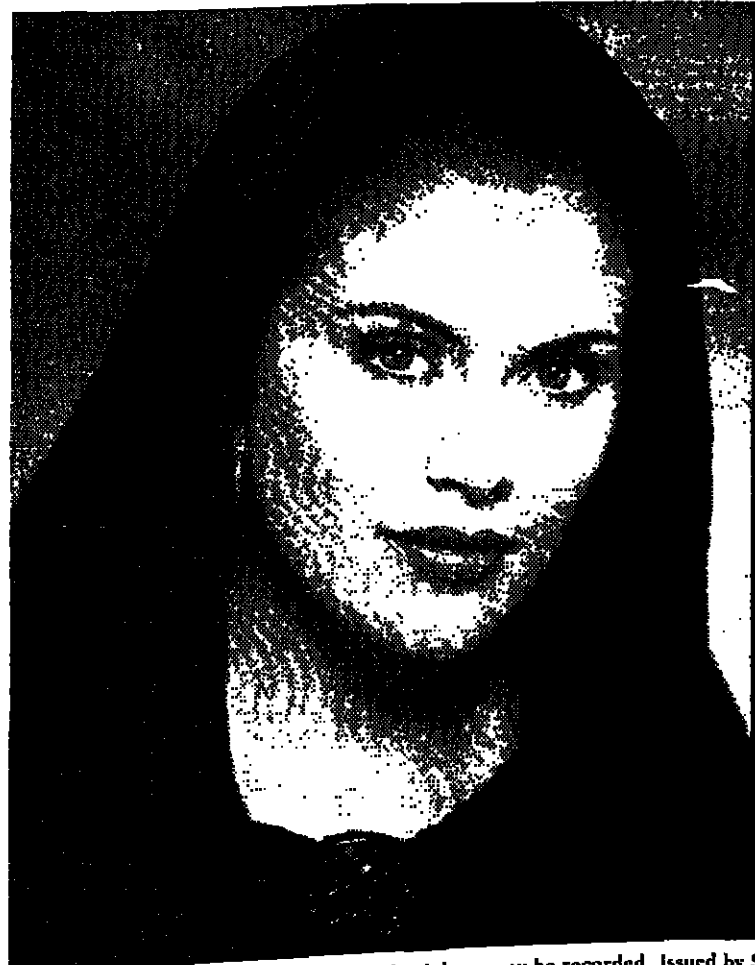
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Sara McConnell with good news for Londoners

Prime freeholds rise 10% in a year

If you own a freehold family house in Kensington or Chelsea and do not want to move, fine. You are sitting on a potential gold mine, according to Knight Frank, the London estate agent. But if you do want to move, you will almost certainly find buyers fighting each other to exchange contracts first.

Prime London property, particularly freehold houses and properties whose leases have more than 100 years to run, is in big demand and short supply. Knight Frank's latest prime property price index shows a 9.9 per cent rise over the past year, with a 6.9 per cent rise in the past six months, mainly due to shortage of good properties.

Knight Frank said: "Prime housing shortages are becoming more acute in London with an insufficient supply of quality property both to buy and to rent commonly available. New development activity is set to alleviate this but the level of demand is such that prices look set to continue to rise, at least in the short term".

Freehold and long-leasehold

properties, the most desirable, are being snapped up within a month of going on the market. Other slightly less prime properties take longer to sell, however, with many on short leases of less than 50 years taking more than a year to change hands. Knight Frank believes this is part of a "flight to longevity" by buyers, rein-



Living in a goldmine

forced by reports in *The Times* and elsewhere of problems encountered by leaseholders trying to buy their freeholds and being obstructed by powerful landlords.

The housing recovery in prime property is being mirrored, more feebly and patchily elsewhere in the country. Monthly price indices from the Halifax and Nationwide building societies show an annual rise in house prices of about 4 per cent, more than the rate of inflation.

But they agree with Knight Frank's analysis that shortage of supply is partly responsible for the price rises. Philip Williamson, Nationwide's corporate development director, added: "In the short to medium term, shortages of quality second-hand property, particularly in the middle to upper price range, will remain, restricting activity growth and further pushing up prices."

Prices rises have so far mainly been confined to the South. But this is good news for homeowners, also mainly in the South, trapped by negative equity, said Nationwide.

Moving my money proved a problem

From Janet Augustin

Sir, On June 21 I went into a branch of my bank, the TSB, to pay my MasterCard account. I handed the cashier the bill and £120 in cash, and asked her to transfer a further £20 to the MasterCard account from my current account, giving her my bank card to complete this transaction.

She immediately asked for further identification. Why? Because I was taking money out of my current account. But I am using it to pay another account; I am moving money from one TSB account to another TSB account, both in the same name. No cash is travelling from her side of the counter to mine. Nevertheless she insisted, otherwise my branch would be asked to fax a copy of my signature. I passed her my MasterCard, which apparently sufficed.

Now, if I had stolen a handbag and found a large wad of cash in it, I do not think I would have walked into the bank and used it to pay my victim's MasterCard bill. Moreover, if the handbag had contained the cheque card, it would have contained the MasterCard, too, rendering that useless as an identity check.

Yours faithfully,
JANET AUGUSTIN,
36 Park Royal,
Montpelier Road, Brighton.

Sixty years on, my NS account goes the same way as my village post office

From Mrs Jean Ward

Sir, This week I have, with some reluctance, closed my National Savings Ordinary Account after using it for more than 60 years.

I find it is no longer possible to use it easily although for many years it was my only bank account.

The minimum deposit is now £10 which means I am unable to pay in the cheque of £5.54 which I recently received from the Inland Revenue.

Another reason for closing the account is that Post Office Counters no longer has an outlet in our village and the company is unwilling to help the village by providing it with a few hours of Post Office service.

Is this not a sad reflection of the changing times in which we live?

Yours faithfully,

JEAN WARD,

6 Portway Gardens,

Aynho, Banbury,

Oxon.



Last post: the rural post office and village shop is a lifeline for many pensioners

Letters to the Weekend Money section are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for the advice or statements given in these columns and it must be

emphasised that independent professional advice should always be sought over all investment matters.

Letters to the Business News section of *The Times* can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Self-assessment fraught with danger

From Mr John Evans

Sir, I have just spent a cold, wet and windy Saturday afternoon "doing my tax". My company was invited to participate in this year's voluntary self-assessment, to be followed next year, as I understand it, by universal self-assessment.

After three hours, I have hardly scratched the surface, and I am totally confused. I have concluded that we made a terrible mistake in allowing the Inland Revenue to persuade our leaders that self-assessment would be a good thing.

I am reasonably intelligent. I can string a few words together, and can add up a column of figures and often get the right answer. But I am beaten by this new challenge.

The sections covering pension tax relief are just one example where the confusing instructions mean that you could easily claim tax relief twice, or fail to claim for it altogether.

You see my dilemma — not only do I not understand the instruction, but I find myself in serious danger of getting relief twice (and presumably a spell in prison), or not claiming relief at the higher rate

(with a spell in the poor house).

We have a veritable army of Inland Revenue clerks, all equipped with computer programmes perfectly capable of calculating our tax for us. Although they change the Tax Return forms slightly every year, most of us have learned to keep up with this and can cope with the system. Of course, we have a completely redesigned form, full of boxes and questions not previously encountered. The outcome will be millions of incorrectly calculated tax returns.

But there is something new. Many of us have become quite expert at opposing the Revenue's assessments and, with patience and stubbornness, we have regularly obtained rebates. What happens now? We surely are not expected to fight ourselves?

I strongly urge a rethink on this nonsense. It appears to be designed to put Inland Revenue clerks out of work and line the pockets of accountants.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN EVANS,

Iona,

Strathallan Close,

Darley Dale,

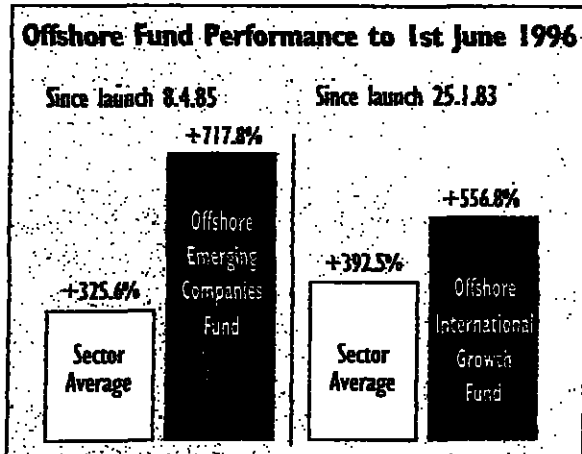
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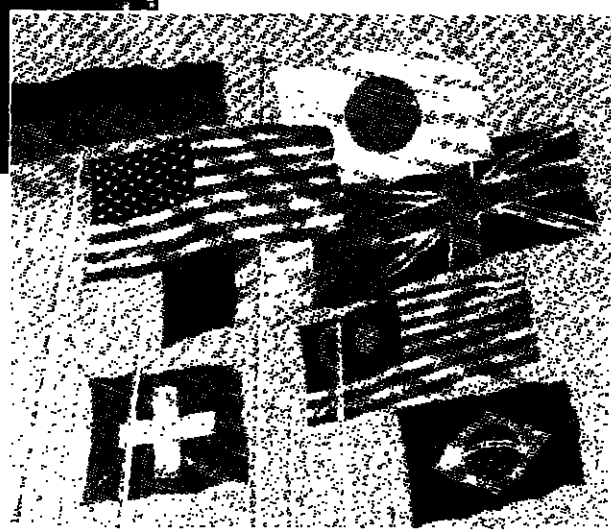
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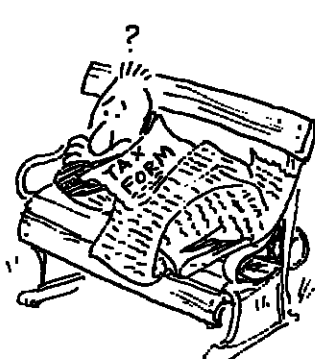
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Sarah Jones finds escalator bonds have their ups and downs

Bond buyer beware

Investors, it seems, commit themselves far quicker than Gaza. Show them an escalator bond guaranteed to rise to 9 per cent or more and they snap it up. Never mind that the high rate masks lousy rates in earlier years, or that they are tying the knot for up to six long years.

"Escalator bonds are simply a matter of packaging," says James Higgins at Chamberlain de Broe, independent financial advisers.

"By giving you less now they can give you more later. The chances are interest rates will go up over the next few years. So locking yourself now into an escalator bond is pretty brave, since we will soon start to see better rates from the building society anyway."

Escalator, or step-up, bonds run for three to five years, sometimes longer, and offer an interest rate that is guaranteed to rise, or step up, each year.

Interest is paid yearly or monthly at a slightly lower rate. The Cheshire Building Society recently withdrew its escalator bond, paying an average 7.75 per cent gross a year, after only three weeks because it was oversubscribed. The Newcastle Building Society has taken the concept one step further — a bond can go down the escalator as well as up.

Its GA Escalator Bond is linked to the performance of the FT-SE 100 and the S&P 500. The initial investment will grow by 15 per cent a year, but only if both indices rise in that year.

So if the indices rose in three years out of the six-year term, a £10,000 investment would grow by 45 per cent to £14,500, which is the equivalent of 7.5 per cent a year.

Should one of the indices fall in each of the six years, then the investor is guaranteed to get back the initial investment but no growth. The minimum balance is £2,500.

This product is more akin to a guaranteed equity bond, and is offered in conjunction with General Accident Life. Gains on this bond are tax-free for basic-rate taxpayers, unlike an ordinary escalator bond where the interest is taxed.

"Most societies shelter behind the concept of no-risk investment. For a society to launch an escalator bond with few guarantees means it will



Will he, won't he? Gaza finally made up his mind

either be hard to sell or investors will feel cheated if the investment falls," says an industry spokesman. The problem with the Newcastle bond, says Mr Higgins, is that

it is a series of six one-year investments, since whether you get your 15 per cent growth or not depends on where the indices stand on August 1 each year. "The stock

market never fits nicely into the calendar. The period from one calendar end to the next can be lousy, whereas if you take a whole six-year term then the chances are you get substantial growth. You need to invest over the whole six years, not over six separate calendar years."

Take, for example, the full calendar years from the start of 1989 to the start of 1995. Chamberlain de Broe calculates that over that term the FT-SE index actually moved up by around 75 per cent.

If an investor had enjoyed the yield as well, as you do with unit trusts, a further 25 per cent could have been earned.

Whereas over the same term there were only four years in which the FT-SE index closed higher than it opened, so the Newcastle bond would have earned the investor a total 60 per cent.

Therefore, if you are happy to go into equities, he suggests you take out a FT-SE tracker fund instead.

"Building society investors should not be fooled — this bond is a stock market gamble. It's not risk-free as is claimed because you are risking the income you would have earned elsewhere. If you are not inclined to gamble, look for a more conventional bond."

A more traditional escalator bond was launched this week. The five-year bond from the Woolwich pays 6 per cent gross in year one (5.84 per cent for monthly interest) rising to 10 per cent in year five (9.57 per cent monthly).

That averages out at 7.7 per cent gross a year (7.43 per cent monthly). Minimum investment is £1,000 and withdrawals are permitted after two years subject to the loss of 90 days interest.

If you are attracted by the high final rate on an escalator bond, make sure you average out the rates over the term. The Bank of Ireland, for example, pays 12 per cent gross in the fifth year, but on average pays 7.3 per cent a year.

Also, be certain you want to lock yourself in for the term. You will pay a hefty penalty if you want to withdraw before your time is up. No partial withdrawals are allowed and closures are not usually permitted within the first year.

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Bank of Scotland 0181 442 7777	5k	6.00	6.50	7.00	10.00	-
Barclays Bank 0800 400100	2k	5.75	6.00	6.25	7.00	10.00
Birmingham Midshires 0845 720721	5k	5.75	6.00	6.50	7.00	10.00
Dunfermline BS 01383 627727	2.5k	6.25	6.75	7.25	8.00	-
Coventry BS 0345 655222	2k	5.75	6.25	7.00	9.25	-
Halifax BS 01422 333333	2k	5.75	6.25	7.00	7.75	9.25
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744555	10k	6.00	6.50	7.50	8.50	10.00
Woolwich BS 0800 222200	5k	5.50	6.00	7.00	8.50	10.50
	1k	6.00	6.50	7.50	8.50	10.00

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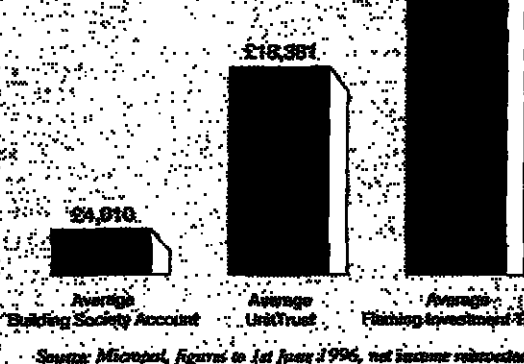
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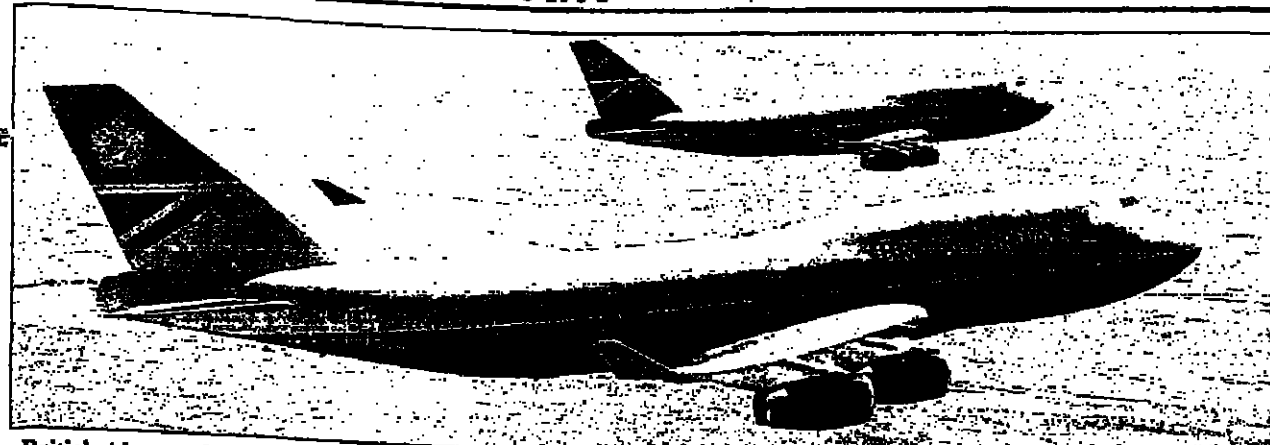
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"We're waiting for your call"



British Airways has been a jumbo success for shareholders, regularly outclimbing the FT-SE 100 index since 1992

Reach for the sky with BA and BAA



A threatened strike by pilots may be casting a shadow over British Airways, but canny investors who looked to the skies and put their money into the BA and BAA (formerly British Airports Authority) privatisations in 1987 still will be sitting on a pretty profit. Even if a strike does take a toll on BA's share price, the impact is likely to be short-lived.

Sadly, for the man or woman in the street, the sell-offs were not publicised with the vigour of other launches.

How have the shares fared since 1987?

It has not been a smooth trip for BA shareholders. The shares were priced at 125p at the launch in February 1987, but by early 1988 they were lagging the launch price and by 1990 were trailing the FT-SE 100 index significantly. In January 1991, they hit a low of 119.79p. By the end of 1991, performance started to improve and the shares have consistently maintained a premium to the FT-SE 100 since.

In the past 12 months, BA shares have outperformed the market as a whole by about 16 per cent and in recent months they have flirted with record levels. More is expected of them if BA's plans for code sharing and co-operation with American Airlines are given the regulatory go-ahead.

BAA also made a slow start. The shares barely got off the ground at their launch in July 1987, and by December of that year, had hit a low of 115.5p, having been launched at 122.5p. From 1990 to 1994 they outperformed the market, but last year they underperformed, before spiking higher again this year.

How high are the dividends on the shares?

BA's dividends stood at 11.1p in 1994, 12.4p in 1995 and 13.65p in 1996. BAA's dividends advanced from 9p in 1994 to 10.125p per cent in 1995.

Why are the companies doing so well now?

Travel-related companies are notoriously sensitive to economic cycles. During recessions, people don't travel and profits dry up. Both BA and BAA are benefiting from economic recovery and an upturn in the travel market which started about three years ago. BA's financial performance has been particularly strong lately. A number of analysts upgraded their ratings after BA reported unexpectedly robust profits for 1995. The number of passengers has been steadily growing, and BA has also been able to increase prices steadily.

BAA is reaping the rewards of strong retailing operations at its airports, which bring in more money than departure taxes. BAA makes money from its rent charges to retailers, and to the retailers and the airlines that use its airports.

What does the market expect of BA and BAA? For BA, the big question mark is the alliance with American Airlines. BA needs the deal to become a global player. Lufthansa has recently teamed up with United Airlines while

Swissair has an alliance with Delta. If the deal falters, BA's share price will almost certainly slide, but most analysts expect it to clear the regulatory hurdles. There is a question of whether BA will have to forfeit Heathrow slots to US carriers as part of the deal, which could have a less dramatic impact on the share price.

BA has also said it needs to find £1 billion in cost cutting and revenue enhancements in the next three years, but most analysts are confident the company will manage.

Andrew Couch, fund manager of Guinness Flight's Global Privatisation Fund, likes BA shares. "BA, unlike almost every other airline in the industry, managed to stay profitable through the recession, which is one of the reasons the stock is more highly rated than its European peer group. In the long term, the more BA establishes itself as a global airline — through its stake in Qantas and its planned link-up with American — the more it is likely to remain profitable over the economic cycle."

The outlook is certain for BAA, at least where share price is concerned. On the plus side, more people are expected to use BAA's airports, in spite of the Channel Tunnel, and this will continue to boost retail-related profits. The market, however, has already built the profits from retailing into BAA's share price.

In addition, Mr Couch notes that BAA is facing hefty capital expenditure in the next few years for construction of Heathrow's Terminal Five and the Heathrow Express rail link. "We are expecting the shares to slightly underperform the market."

FRANCESCO GUIDINI

KAREN ZAGOR



BAA is facing hefty construction costs for Heathrow's Terminal Five and the rail link

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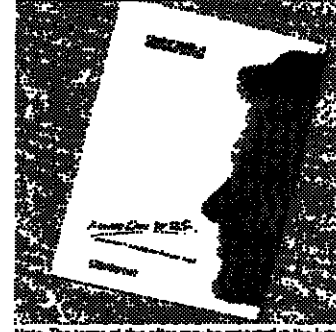
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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

How to safeguard your inheritance

The pitfalls of capital gains and inheritance taxes on gifts to friends and family can largely be avoided by planning ahead, explains *The Which? Guide to Giving and Inheriting*. Nowhere is this more crucial than in the area of inheritance planning as only four out of ten adults in Britain have made a will and nearly one in five wills are out of date. The book looks at some of the issues to consider if you plan to pass on your home and also covers charitable gifts which qualify for tax relief. Available from bookshops or on 0800 252100, price £9.99.

There is now a legal requirement for occupational pension schemes to have at least a third of their trustees elected by members. A new survival guide for trustees has been launched by the Institute of Personnel and Development to ensure that anyone standing for election is aware of exactly what they are taking on, and avoids unwittingly falling foul of the law. The booklet explains the responsibilities of pension scheme trustees under the Pensions Act 1995 and includes information on the Government's intentions for regulations.

The IPD guide on *Trusteeship and the Pensions Act 1995* costs £4.95 to IPD members or £5.50 to non-members. Call Plymouthbridge Distributors on 01752 202 301.

It is important that savers understand how building society interest is taxed, says the Building Societies Association, which has updated its leaflet clarifying the tax position for 1996-97. *Taxation of Building Society Interest* includes a list of the circumstances under which societies can pay interest gross. The BSA has also published *Your Rights as a Member of a Building Society*, which lists the information members are entitled to and how to have a voice in their society's affairs. Send an SAE to BSA/CML Bookshop, 3 Savile Row, London W1X 1AF.

The latest edition of *Your Retirement*, published on July 25, gives tips on how to enjoy a more financially secure retirement. It covers subjects such as money and pensions, voluntary work, social security benefits, care of elderly parents. Available soon from bookshops at £8.99.

LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME			
Rates as at July 2, 1996			
Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)	
1 Year	5,000	AIG Life	4.75
	10,000	AIG Life	4.85
	20,000	AIG Life	4.90
	50,000	AIG Life	5.05
2 Years	1,000	Premium Life	4.30
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	5.70
	20,000	AIG Life	5.75
	50,000	AIG Life	5.85
3 Years	1,000	Premium Life	4.75
	10,000	AIG Life	5.98
	20,000	AIG Life	6.08
	50,000	AIG Life	6.18
4 Years	1,000	Premium Life	5.00
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.40
	20,000	AIG Life	6.40
	50,000	AIG Life	6.40
5 Years	1,000	Premium Life	5.45
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.65
	15,000	Abbey Life	6.70
	50,000	Abbey Life	6.90

Source: Chamberslain de Broit 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Instant Access Accounts				
Portman BS 01202 292444	Instant Acc	£100	4.80	Y/Y
Alliance & Leicester 0845 845880	Instant Dir	£25,000	5.40	Y/Y
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2257755	Postal	£10,000	5.80	Y/Y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Postal	£25,000	6.50	A/Y
Notice Accounts & Bonds				
Coventry BS 0345 665522	Postal 50	£2,000	5.45	Y/Y
First National BS 0800 558844	90 Day Notice	£10,000	6.20	Y/Y
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Scarborough 100	£1,000	6.50	Y/Y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Postal Dep Bond	30.6.99	7.50	F/Y

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
First TESSAS (TAX FREE)				
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/Y
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/Y
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	5 year	£1,000	7.25	F/Y
Principality BS 01222 344188	5 year	£500	7.00	F/Y

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Credit Cards	Card type	Interest per month	APR	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.896% C	11.20%	N/A
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Access	0.95% N	12.00%	N/A
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.00%	£12

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

Personal Loans	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3 yrs with insurance	No insurance
Direct Line 0141 2489966	13.90% E	£112.86	£101.33
Alliance & Leicester 0116 2626262	14.80%	£114.93	£102.36
Midland 0800 180180	14.90%	£115.82	£102.49

No. A = All withdrawals subject to 30 day loss of interest. C = no interest free period. E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years. F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable). N = Introductory rate for a limited period. P = By Post only.

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING.

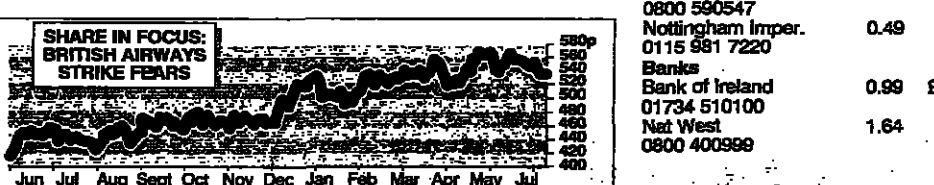
Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01892 500 677)

PIBS

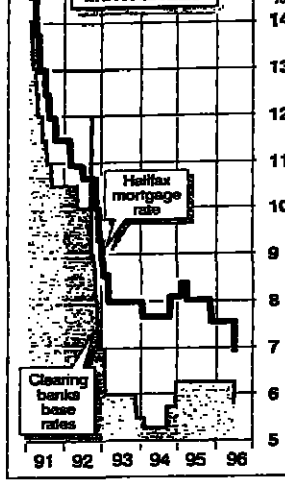
Fixed Rate	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Birmingham Midshires 9.375%	100.29	9.337	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley 11.625%	120.94	9.536	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley 13.000%	135.14	9.820	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West 13.375%	140.40	9.527	100.34	1,000
Britannica 13.525%	135.23	9.613	100.42	1,000
Coventry 12.125%	128.64	9.549	100.75	1,000
First National 11.750%	118.36	9.927	100.25	10,000
Halifax 8.750%	93.50	9.358	100.82	50,000
Halifax 12.000%	125.52	9.350	100.28	50,000
Halifax 13.000%	144.07	9.617	100.42	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck 13.375%	140.50	9.520	100.23	1,000
Newcastle 10.750%	116.23	9.236	100.32	1,000
Newcastle 12.625%	135.41	9.323	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock 12.625%	137.32	9.194	100.14	1,000
Skipston 12.875%	135.46	9.505	100.48	1,000

Floating Rate	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Chesterline (28/05-21/03) 5.8750%	104.63	100.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat (20/03-20/09) 5.7625%	101.13	100.00	100.00	1,000

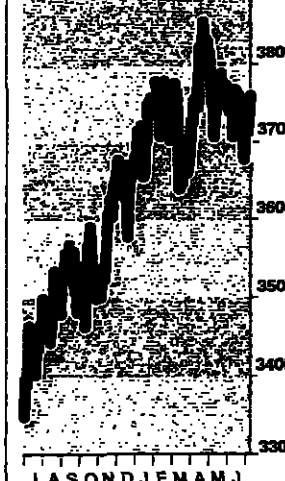
PIBS = Permanent Interest-bearing Shares. Source: ABN AMRO Home Growth - 0171 601 0101



BASE RATES V MORTGAGES



FT-SE 100 INDEX



NATIONAL SAVINGS

Gross rate	At two rates	At one rate	Minimum investment	Notice	Contract
Ordinary A/c	1.75	1.40	10-10,000**	1mth	0645 645000
Investment A/c	5.00	3.00	20-500**	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond	6.25	5.00	3,750-20,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond	6.25	5.00	3,750-20,000**	3mth	0645 645000
Child's Savings	5.35	5.35	100-10,000	1mth	0645 645000
Children's Bond	6.75	5.35	25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51	5.32	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
Capital Bonds	5.35	5.32	100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
9th Index Link	2.50	5.32	100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pension Bonds	7.00	5.90	500-50,000	60day	0645 645000

* First £70 (£140 if at two rates, net after tax for up to £100 - additional notice fee of £2.00 for 1mth notice period. ** 175p free. * Rates correct as of 1.7.96. * Rates correct as of 1.7.96. * Rates correct as of 1.7.96. * Rates correct as of 1.7.96.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance					
SINGLE LIFE (level ann)					
	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70		
Prudential	£10,467	£11,495	£12,893		
Stalwart	£10,322	£11,359	£12,458		
Sun Life of Can.	£10,255	£11,285	£12,893		
General	£10,211	£11,238	£12,578		
Canada Life	£10,058	£11,227	£12,810		
SINGLE LIFE					
	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70		
Norwich Un	£9,722	£10,458	£11,549		
Prudential	£9,710	£10,443	£11,528		
Stalwart	£9,419	£10,307	£11,168		
Sun Life of Can.	£9,526	£10,252	£11,330		
General	£9,320	£10,163	£11,334		
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)					
	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70		
Stalwart	£9,232	£9,905	£10,638		
Prudential	£9,323	£9,895	£10,708		
Norwich Un	£9,319	£9,895	£10,708		
Sun Life of Can.	£9,159	£9,720	£10,526		
General	£9,005	£9,621	£10,473		

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers. Source: Annuity Direct 01773 528 8230.

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies	0.95	£15k+	95	6.04% disc 6 mth.
Bristol & West 0800 630808				2% disc 6 months
Lambeth 0171 9281331	3.74	£15-150k	95	3.25% discount for 12 months
Halifax 01635 43676	4.33	any	95	2.66% discount to 30.9.98
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc 6 mth.
Royal Bank Scot 0131 523 4442	3.74	£15-150k	95	3.25% to 4.8.97

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT LINKED INVESTMENTS

Unit	Offer	Why	Yld	Unit	Offer	Why	Yld	Unit	Offer	Why	Yld	Unit	Offer	Why	Yld
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CRICKET: LORD'S INNINGS REMAINS ENDURING REMINDER OF AZHARUDDIN'S REMARKABLE POWERS

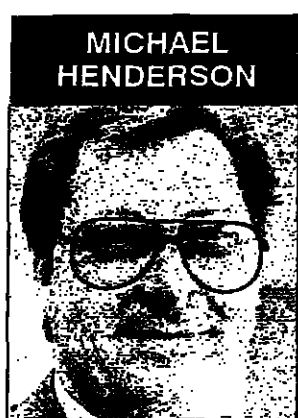
Genius worthy of more fitting final curtain call

His deeds are nearly done, his race is almost run. Mohammad Azharuddin shuffled yesterday after failing for the fourth time in this series, snared in the leg trap Michael Atherton had set. Unless the signs are misleading, this is his last Test as the captain of India. So, if he does not bat again here, that brief innings may be his last will and testament in this country.

By the strictest standards, he has fallen short of greatness, but that rather misses the point. Few cricketers of the last 20 years have given more pleasure to more people, the world over. Azharuddin has served the game with grace and, in an age when too many sportsmen luxuriate in revelling narcissism, he has enjoyed his success with humility. We should remember him for that, not the run of low scores that accompany this leave-taking.

It has been a thin summer for a batsman who, at 33, should be in the thick of things. In four innings, he has contributed only 34 runs. Twice, he has been caught close in on the on side, going for his favourite flick, and at Edgbaston he was bowled behind his legs for a duck. To fall against England, against whom he has made six of his 14 Test hundreds, is significant. Clearly his mind is wandering.

Like Wasim Akram, the captain of Pakistan, he survived his team's failure in the World Cup. They both had to endure more abuse than a



Test Match Commentary

cricketer ever should, so high were the expectations in both countries, but whereas Wasim, who is three years younger and is harassed by his first unsuccessful attempt at captaincy, has regained his appetite for the job Azharuddin is ready to hand over his badge to Sachin Tendulkar.

English bowlers have seen the best of Azharuddin and English crowds certainly have. It was as a 21-year-old that he began his Test career with those celebrated three consecutive hundreds against David Gower's team in 1985 and it was six years ago, as the newly-appointed captain, that he adorned "Gooch's match" at Lord's with one of the most glorious centuries the ground has surely ever seen.

Some of his on-side strokes that day belonged to a con-

tionist. Azharuddin's wrists, like Betty Grable's legs, are not any old common-garden ones. On that Saturday afternoon at Lord's, he took balls from outside off stump and spirited them away, anywhere between long leg and mid-wicket. On faster pitches, in other parts of the world, he struggled to combat the extra pace and bounce, but his batting that day was of a rare beauty.

Think of him as an enchanter. Even at his best, there was something vulnerable about his batting, in a way there never was about Sunil Gavaskar or, seeking a modern parallel, Brian Lara.

Where Lara's gifts are cast in bronze, Azharuddin's might have been traced by a Meissen potter. Like a Meissen vase, he could crack easily, as he did yesterday, and it was sad to see.

It has not been a good summer for him, or his team. Kamli wasn't selected for this tour and Sidhu went floundering home when he was dropped from the one-day side. Thank goodness for Tendulkar, whose batting grows apace, and for Ganguly, the elegant left-hander whose successive hundreds may have reminded the captain of his own startling introduction to the theatre of Test cricket.

These are men for the future. For the time being, remember a man whose best days are behind him and send him on his way with a silent cheer.



Azharuddin trudges back to the pavilion after being dismissed cheaply yesterday

Mushtaq maintains good employee relations

By SIMON WILDE

TAUNTON (final day of three): the Pakistanis beat Somerset by 105 runs

MUSHTAQ AHMED pleased both Pakistan and Somerset supporters alike by bowling the touring team to their first first-class win of their tour at Taunton yesterday. The leg spinner returned second-innings figures of five for 72 — giving him a match haul of ten for 108 — and the contest was one-sided towards the end that local spectators cheered on the county's "resident" overseas player rather than maintain the pretence that Somerset might escape a heavy defeat.

The home side, asked to score 316 to win in a minimum of 78 overs, slipped quietly to defeat by 4.25pm with 19.1 overs remaining and gave an insipid batting performance for the second time in the match. They were all out for 210 and, from lunch onwards, formed a sorry procession to the pavilion.

In a season in which it is widely hoped that county batsmen will show a greater aptitude for rearguard actions, it was far from encouraging to see a side give up the ghost quite so timidly. Even though they were without four first-team regulars, Somerset should have done better than be dismissed twice for an aggregate of 369 in only 99 overs.

Their sole excuse yesterday was that Shane Lee, the Australian all-rounder who is Mushtaq's temporary stand-in as overseas player, was carrying a badly bruised left hand and was scarcely fit for battle. Although he batted, he was out to his second ball, pushing forward gingerly to Mushtaq and being caught at silly mid-off. Lee's nought took his average below 100 and also lost him the leading position in the first-class averages.

Of his colleagues, only Bowler, the acting captain, who scored his second half-century of the match, and Ecclestone, with a belligerent 57, dug themselves in. Lathwell and Trescott, of whom so much is

expected, again failed to deliver a big innings, although Lathwell reeled off some crisp boundaries as he and Bowler brought up the 50 in quick time.

Somerset's task ought to have been made easier by the withdrawal from the attack of Waqar Younis, who, as a precaution, bowled only three overs before departing to nurse a strained hamstring. However, once Lathwell had pulled a ball from Mohammad Akram into the hands of backward square leg, the Pakistanis were content to leave Mushtaq and two part-time spinners to exploit a turning pitch. Ecclestone alone took the attack to Mushtaq, hitting him twice for six.

A 40-minute onslaught from Inzamam-ul-Haq had set up the touring team's declaration in the morning. Smiting the ball with his customary power, he struck two sixes off Batty and four fours in an unbeaten 51 that occupied only 42 balls.

His runs came out of 67 added to an overnight score of 107 for one, but that was enough to leave Somerset a target that they never even entertained chasing.

Aamir Sohail did not resume his innings because of a strained hamstring, but it did not prevent him taking the field later — or, indeed, giving his left-arm spin an extend airing.

Wells overflows with confidence

By PAT GIBSON

LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 141 runs ahead of Essex

VINCE WELLS for England? It was not a thought that would have crossed even his own mind when the Leicestershire all-rounder was turning his back on his native Kent in frustration at his lack of opportunities five years ago, but it did not seem such a preposterous suggestion yesterday when he was taking his aggregate of runs to 557 in his last four innings.

Wells followed his 300 against Yorkshire in the county

By then, Wells had been batting for more than five hours, faced 265 balls and struck 22 fours in an innings of the highest quality. He had made only two centuries in 78 first-class matches before this season, but, when Leicestershire needed a new opener because injury had forced Briers into retirement, Macmillan had not fitted the bill and Simmons preferred to go down the order, their coach, Jack Birkenshaw, was convinced that Kent would have to bat again.

"It was just a question of him believing in himself," Birkenshaw said. "He is a class batsman, he can swing the ball away at a decent pace and I certainly think that he has got the talent to play for England."

Wells probably thinks so, too, in his present vein of form. He had resumed on 58 and rarely looked in any trouble, despite a much-improved performance by Essex, who held what looked like a crisis meeting in the middle before play began and responded with a brand of cricket which was on a different plane to anything they had produced the day before.

Iran's early movement to have Maddy caught at first slip and although Smith helped Wells raise 61 for the second wicket, he never looked in touch before Williams had him caught behind. Andrew achieved unexpected bounce to have Simmons caught at second slip and then had Whitaker taken at first slip.

Two more wickets fell in Iran's first over after the interval. Habib falling leg before offering no stroke and Nixon playing on, but Wells continued to drive and pull with great freedom and when Mills put bat to ball so effectively that he reached 50 off 86 balls, with eight fours, Leicestershire were back on top.

Durham maintain interest

By IVO TENNANT

MAIDSTONE (second day of four): Durham, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 146 runs behind Kent

DURHAM needed to make 214 to avoid following on against Kent yesterday and, for a long while, it was by no means certain that they would achieve their goal. Until Mike Roseberry and Phil Bainbridge came together, there was a lack of gumption about their innings. When rain stopped play shortly after 4pm, they had, at least, ensured that Kent would have to bat again.

Bainbridge, as with other itinerant cricketers, came to Durham in the hope of prolonging his career. That is still the case. A year ago, he said that he would retire at the end of this summer, a decision he is now reconsidering. He recently made 83 against Gloucestershire, his best score of the season. What with scoring 71 yesterday, an in-

nings that included 12 fours, he will be taking a while longer to make up his mind. Until he and Roseberry came together, Durham were batting as though they would be beaten within three days. Resuming on 11 without loss, they were soon four wickets down. McCague, who has found a variety of ways of getting out this season, caught at short leg. The ball was played off the face of the bat, indicating that he was unable to counter such bounce as there was.

When Headley bowled Campbell, who was batting as tentatively as he has for much of the season — he has been disconcerted by the uneven bounce he has found in the North East — Durham were 52 for three. They then lost Blair, splendidly held by McCague at gully from a sliced drive off Headley. Some fortune as well as resolve was much needed.

The visitors gained the requisite luck. Roseberry was missed at first slip on seven. Bainbridge at second slip on 42. The second of these was barely a chance. Hooper's fingers touching a top-edged square out that went on to the boundary. Such is the difference between following on and looking to make something of the match. By the time the pair were separated, 39 runs had been added.

Bainbridge was finally bowled by a slower ball from Fleming, whom Marsh preferred to his specialist spinner, Stanford, or for that matter, Hooper, who had Ligertwood taken at short leg with his second ball when he did eventually come on. Such is the way of modern captains, who see slow bowlers as so many pieces of putty to fill gaps in the day. Roseberry remained, unbeaten on 51, after 208 minutes batting on this intrinsically decent pitch. He still has much to do today.

Glamorgan quartet set county record

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

GLAMORGAN'S first innings score of 509 for three declared against Gloucestershire at Bristol yesterday included four individual centuries, a county record.

The first-day century-makers, Stephen James and Hugh Morris, who put on 240 for the first wicket, were quickly dealt with by Mike Smith, during a burst of three wickets in 20 balls, but the Gloucestershire attack, lacking the services of Courtney Walsh because of a stomach upset, proved powerless against the fourth-wicket pair.

Matthew Maynard (145) and Tony Cortey (101) put on 251 in 200 minutes with the captain in particularly punishing form, hitting 21 fours.

Michael Burns, Warwickshire's reserve wicketkeeper, made 81, his highest first-class score, to help the champions to 251 for six against Nottinghamshire and their first two home batting points of the season. They had managed scores of only 192, 164 and 137 in their three previous first innings.

Lancashire's total of 392 against Worcestershire was built around Jason Gallian's innings of 140, his first century since recovering from a broken finger. Vikram Solanki took five wickets with his rarely used off break.

Fine seam bowling by the Hampshire captain, John Stephenson, who took six for 48, saw Sussex dismissed for 193 at Arundel, where Jason Lansley made 83 as Hampshire reached 190 for three in their second innings to lead by 267.

Lancashire emerged as South Africa A's most effective player in the drawn match with Yorkshire, following three for 57 with an unbeaten 46, which helped to steer his side clear of the follow-on.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Tetley's Challenge Series

Somerset v Pakistanis

TAUNTON (final day of three): the Pakistanis beat Somerset by 105 runs

PAKISTANS: First innings 300 for 7 dec (Saeed Anwar 130, Asif Murtaza 54, Saeed 4 for 65)

Somerset: First innings 210 for 10 (M Lathwell c Shadab b Mohammad 25, M E Trescott c Shadab b Asif Murtaza 17, Inzamam-ul-Haq not out 51, Extras (b 10, w 1, nb 16) 18)

Second Innings: Somerset 174 for 10 (M Lathwell c Shadab b Mohammad 25, M E Trescott c Shadab b Asif Murtaza 17, Inzamam-ul-Haq not out 51, Extras (b 10, w 1, nb 16) 18)

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Surrey v Middlesex

THE OVAL (second day of four): Surrey, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 267 runs ahead of Middlesex

MIDDLESEX: First Innings 193 for 10 (M Lathwell c Shadab b Mohammad 25, M E Trescott c Shadab b Asif Murtaza 17, Inzamam-ul-Haq not out 51, Extras (b 10, w 1, nb 16) 18)

Surrey: First Innings 267 for 7 (M Lathwell c Shadab b Mohammad 25, M E Trescott c Shadab b Asif Murtaza 17, Inzamam-ul-Haq not out 51, Extras (b 10, w 1, nb 16) 18)

Second Innings: Middlesex 193 for 10 (M Lathwell c Shadab b Mohammad 25, M E Trescott c Shadab b Asif Murtaza 17, Inzamam-ul-Haq not out 51, Extras (b 10, w 1, nb 16) 18)

Second Innings: Middlesex 193 for 10 (M Lathwell c Shadab b Mohammad 25, M E Trescott c Shadab b Asif Murtaza 17, Inzamam-ul-Haq not out 51, Extras (b 10, w 1, nb 16) 18)

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CYCLING: ALPINE STAGES PUT ONUS ON SUPPORT RIDERS TO HELP JALABERT AND ZÜLLE CHALLENGE INDURÁIN'S LONG-STANDING SUPREMACY

Time to move mountains on Tour

Dutch delight as conditions take their toll



ANDREW LONGMORE

After the sprinting thrills and the peloton spills of the first week of the 83rd Tour de France, the real battle of the giants — the pink in the white and blue — will start today on the first of the four mountain stages through the Alps.

By the middle of next week, the names of Cyril Saugrain, the 23-year-old hero from the unsung team from the suburbs of Aubervilliers, who won the fourth stage, and Stéphane Heulot, the French champion, who took the yellow jersey on that same day, will most likely be mere memories buried beneath the might of ONCE and Banesto, Miguel Induráin, Alex Zülle and Laurent Jalabert.

While the opening stages are measured in seconds, the mountains claim minutes. One draining hour can shatter a Tour. It is here on the wicked slopes of the Col de Madeleine or the Col d'Iseran, on the cruel climb up to Val d'Isère at the end of the 18-mile time-trial tomorrow, where the big men earn their money and those who are not quite ready fade away into the oblivion of the broom-wagon. Here, too, that the workers, the foot soldiers in the ONCE and Banesto teams — both, ironically, backed by Spanish money — dig deep into their reservoirs of unselfish suffering to deliver the rewards to their team leader.

If Induráin stands on the podium in Paris for a record sixth time on July 21, or Zülle or Jalabert inherit the crown, the shattered bodies of their faithful troops will litter the byways of the Alps and the Pyrenees. They will suffer victory or defeat just as acutely.

The opening stages across the plains of Belgium and



Boogerd, of Holland, celebrates his stage victory in the Tour de France yesterday. He completed the 207-kilometre sixth stage in 5hr 5min 38sec.

northern France proved a typical week at the office for the Australian, Neil Stephens, one of the most coveted and respected of cycling's domestiques. One day he was leading the peloton in pursuit of a dangerous breakaway, to protect the yellow jersey of Zülle, the next he was tagging along on the back of another break, ever the watchful artisan, ensuring no damage was done to his ONCE team. The following day, he fell and lost time. No matter, he — and his fellows — are not in the race to win. They get their kicks from helping others to win.

"I could be the leader of a small team, win the odd one-day race, maybe come thirtieth in the Tour," Stephens, 32 and on his fifth Tour, explained, "but that doesn't mean a great deal to me, to be honest. With ONCE, I am in the No 1 team in the Tour, I'm highly respected in professional cycling and am highly satisfied with the way things are going. You just have to be realistic about your own ability."

In a sport and on a race where there is little room to hide, where 100 per cent is the average output, Stephens is accorded the honour of being called "Monsieur 100 per cent". A good tactician, a powerful motivator, a shrewd

reader of races, but a man humble enough to do his share of the fetching and carrying required of all domestiques, Stephens will never be short of work. A good domestique is worth his weight in gold, someone, as his manager, Manolo Salas, says, you do not have to worry about.

Stephens's rewards will only partly be in his wage packet. The relationship between leader and worker is based on simple things, he says, like courtesy and gratitude. "If someone comes past your room at the end of the day when you're feeling wasted and says: 'Hey, bloody good job today', that's all the thanks I need. I'll go out next day and work just as hard for him. Some don't do that, they expect you to do it, so halfway up a mountain you feel less inclined to help."

MICHAEL BOOGERD, of Holland, won the 207-kilometre sixth stage of the Tour de France from Arc-et-Semans to Aix-les-Bains in appalling weather conditions yesterday. Boogerd, a double national champion in the time-trial and a member of Rabobank, the new Dutch team, escaped in driving rain with just two kilometres remaining and with Melchor Mauri, a Spaniard, in hot pursuit. Mauri, a member of the impressive ONCE team, eventually finished seventeenth, just ahead of Chris Boardman, of Great Britain.

Twice a stage-winner, Armstrong, 24, was riding in his final Tour for Motorola, who are withdrawing their sponsorship at the end of the season. "It's a terrible feeling when one has to retire, but I am young and there is at least the Atlanta Olympics to aim for," he said.

Eddy Seigneur, the 1995 French champion, also retired yesterday. It was the second successive year that he has pulled out early. Seigneur, 27, a team-mate of Boardman and Heulot, retired with his com-

TOUR DETAILS

SIXTH STAGE (207km): Arc-et-Semans to Aix-les-Bains. 1. M Boogerd (Holl) Rabobank; 2. E Zülle (Ger) Deutsche Telekom; 3. L Jalabert (Fr) ONCE; 4. A Trossello (Lux) Lotto; 5. F Eekhout (Bel) MG Technogym; 6. J Selsky (Den) TTM; 7. A Trossello (Lux) Lotto; 8. R Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 9. P Forcett (Ir) SAECCO; 10. Z Saurin (Fr) Panasonic; 11. B Boudroom (Fr) Forcett; 12. J Mucchi (Bel) MG Technogym; 13. B Boudroom (Fr) Forcett; 14. P Richard (Swi) MG Technogym; 15. C Gaborau (Fr) Forcett; 16. H D Zülle (Ger) ONCE; 17. M Mauri (Sp) ONCE; 18. C Boardman (GB) GAN; 19. E Decker (Holl) Rabobank; 20. R Vercruyse (Fr) Festina; 21. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 22. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 23. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 24. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 25. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 26. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 27. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 28. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 29. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 30. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 31. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 32. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 33. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 34. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 35. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 36. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 37. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 38. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 39. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 40. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 41. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 42. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 43. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 44. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 45. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 46. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 47. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 48. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 49. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 50. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 51. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 52. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 53. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 54. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 55. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 56. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 57. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 58. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 59. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 60. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 61. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 62. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 63. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 64. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 65. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 66. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 67. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 68. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 69. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 70. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 71. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 72. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 73. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 74. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 75. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 76. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 77. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 78. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 79. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 80. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 81. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 82. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 83. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 84. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 85. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 86. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 87. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 88. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 89. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 90. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 91. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 92. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 93. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 94. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 95. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 96. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 97. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 98. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 99. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank; 100. S Sørensen (Den) Rabobank.

BASEBALL

Making a wild pitch for the British youth market

Ken Griffey Jr. of the Seattle Mariners, can sleep easy. On the evidence of my visit to the Entenmann's Major League Baseball Festival, held in Covent Garden, London, I am highly unlikely to threaten his reputation as baseball's No 1 all-round player.

The four-day event, which goes on until tomorrow, gives visitors an opportunity to try their hand at pitching and hitting, as well as watching on-screen highlights. In the batting cages, pitching machines deliver a range of fast balls, curve balls, sliders and the rest. "Hitting a fast-moving baseball, a lot of people feel is the hardest thing to do in sport," Jim Lefebvre, the former manager of the Mariners and the Chicago Cubs, who is in attendance, said. Here, the balls are a lightweight plastic design. For pitching practice, however, you hurl the genuine article at target zones; an electronic voice comes back at you with "Wild pitch!", "Take a walk!" or "Strike-rikt!"

Major League baseball has opened a London office and

Nick Szczepanik on an American sport with a base in London

is investing an estimated \$30,000 (about £19,000) a time to take the roadshow to cities around the world. "Baseball is trying to introduce itself to England," Lefebvre said. "Thanks to the Olympics, it's becoming a world sport and we're taking the message to everyone. One problem in Europe is the weather."

The weather, namely a gusty wind, was definitely assisting all those curve balls I did not hit and may have kept some potential visitors away; or perhaps it was Wimbledon. It may, of course, have been the fact that baseball does not loom very large in the national psyche because one seldom sees it on television.

The Major Leagues have been accused of pricing themselves out of our couch-potato market, but that is going to change. Sky Television, an associate company of News International, which owns

The Times, will show next week's All-Star game in Philadelphia, and then there will be a weekly hour-long game-of-the-week package, followed by the play-offs and World Series. "We didn't even talk about money," Clive Russell, the Major Leagues' director of European operations, said. "We want to get kids interested, so we didn't want live games at 3am. Until we had the right package, we weren't going to do anything."

Baseball has also gone into British schools with a training package called "Pitch, Hit and Run". Youth development is deemed important to the sport. Demographically, baseball may be in trouble at home. A recent survey suggested that while 25 to 40-year-olds favour basketball and American football is the sport of choice for those in the 40-50 age range, the average baseball supporter is likely to be over 50.

They are probably right to try to get Britain interested through youth. After all, according to the survey, the No 1 sport for the under-25s in the United States is soccer.

BOWLS

Scotland set standard as others flag

SCOTLAND'S unmistakable yellow flag, with red lion rampant, has fluttered all week from the ramparts of Carrickfergus Castle, in Co Antrim — though nobody in the town seems to know why (David Rhys Jones writes).

It must have been an omen: Scotland, a proud bowling nation, bridged a 10-year gap and dominated the home international series, split uncomfotably between twin venues at Carrickfergus and the Ulster Transport bowls club in Jordanstown.

Showing the fighting spirit that used to be their trademark, the Scots came back from early deficits to beat Wales, England and Ireland, then dealt imperiously with the Channel Islands on Thursday, leaving the other four countries to squabble over the minor positions yesterday.

For good measure, the Scots also went home bearing the pairs, triples and junior singles trophies, while Ireland, who finished second in the series after beating England yesterday, took the singles — through Noel Graham, and the fours.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

CRICKET
Third Cornhill Test match
11.0, third day of five, 90 overs minimum
TRENT BRIDGE: England v India
Telford's Challenge Series
11.0, first day of three
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Pakistan
Tour match
11.0, first day of three
CHESTERFIELD: Derbyshire v South Africa A
Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Glamorgan
MAIDSTONE: Kent v Durham
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Worcestershire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Essex
THE OVAL: Surrey v Middlesex
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire
11.0, final day of four, 96 overs minimum
ARUNDEL: Sussex v Hampshire
SECOND WOMEN'S TEST MATCH:
Worcester (final day of four) England v New Zealand
RUGBY LEAGUE
Stones Super League
London Broncos v Sheffield Eagles (6.0)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Medleyton Cup (2.0): Huntingdonshire v Warwickshire (at Somersham Town); Isle of Wight v Middlesex (at Chichester); Kent v Buckinghamshire (at Old Colson); Norfolk v Bedfordshire (at Wymondham); Dorset v Northamptonshire v Essex (at Weymouth); Nottinghamshire v Northumberland (at Nottingham); Oxfordshire v Berkshire (at South Oxford); Sussex v Surrey (at Preston); Wiltshire v Somerset (at Weston Bassett).
BOXING: World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight championship: Sugar Ray Malaga (USA, holder) v Vincenzo Nardello (It) International Boxing Federation Inter-continental and Commonwealth light-heavyweight championship: Steve Foster (Salford, GB) v Chris Pyle (Leicester, Commonwealth); WBO Inter-continental light-heavyweight championship: (vacant) Maurice Cole (Manchester) v Mark Prince (Tottenham) (at Nymans Arena, Manchester).
CYCLING: National track championships (Leicester, 2.0): Chatterham ten miles (Coventry, 2.0).
GOLF: Murphy's Irish Open (Druids Glen, Co Wicklow).
LACROSSE: Women's International England v United States (Sheffield).
ROWING: Henley Royal Regatta.
SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Eastbourne v Coventry (7.30); Suffolk v Scottish Monarchs (7.30).
TENNIS: At England championships (at Wimbledon).

Tomorrow

CRICKET
Telford's Challenge Series
11.0, second day of three
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Pakistan
Tour match
11.0, second day of three
CHESTERFIELD: Derbyshire v South Africa A
AXA Equity & Law League
2.0, 40 overs
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Glamorgan
MAIDSTONE: Kent v Durham
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Worcestershire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Essex
THE OVAL: Surrey v Middlesex
ARUNDEL: Sussex v Hampshire
2.10, 40 overs
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire
MINOR COUNTRIES CHAMPIONSHIP
(first day of two): Hereford: Herefordshire v Northumberland; Reading: Berkshire v Cornwall; Hereford City: Herefordshire v Devon; Lincoln: Lincolnshire v Cambridgeshire; Pontypool: Wales v Strathgordon; South Wales CC: Wiltshire v Gloucestershire.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
Stones Super League
Hull FC v Wakefield (6.0) ...
Leeds v Oldham Bears ...
Warrington v Paris Saint-Germain (6.0)
First division
Salford Red Devils v Rochdale (5.30) ...
Featherston v Widnes (3.30) ...
Hull v Dewsbury (6.0) ...
Keighley Cougars v ...
Huddersfield Giants (3.30) ...
Salford Red Devils v Whitehaven ...
Second division
Carlisle v York (6.0) ...
Chorley Magpies v Bramley (6.0) ...
Doncaster Dragons v Swinton Lions ...
Leigh Centurions v Huddersfield Hawks ...
Preston Panthers v Hull KR ...
South Wales v Barrow ...
(at Talbot Athletic Ground, 6.0) ...
OTHER SPORT
CYCLING: Rutland 100 miles (Rutland, 6.0am), Bramley Wheelers 50 miles (Tadcaster, 6.0am).
GOLF: Murphy's Irish Open (Druids Glen, Co Wicklow).
ROWING: Henley Royal Regatta.
SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Oxford v Scottish Monarchs (6.30); Conference League: Buxton v Sheffield (8.0), Middlesbrough v Exeter (3.30); Open: Loughborough (2.30).
TENNIS: At England championships (at Wimbledon).

ONLY IN TOMORROW'S NEWS OF THE WORLD

ITALIAN CLUBS SWOOP FOR TWO ENGLAND SOCCER HEROES

Tenacious Benn fired up to prove title point



Benn: displayed courage

NIGEL BENN returns tonight to prove wrong those who wrote him off as "finished" after his defeat by Thulane Malinga, of South Africa, in March. Benn challenges Steve Collins, the tough World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion, from Ireland, at the Nynex Arena in Manchester.

Collins, who won his belt by beating Chris Eubank, is the favourite, but Benn, who showed remarkable courage in coming back from two humiliating defeats — by Michael Watson and Eubank — to lift the World Boxing Council title and be recognised as one of the great middleweights, is more than capable of a third successful return. He is at his most dangerous when he has something to prove.

If he is beaten for the second time in a row, it could mean his retirement, but as Benn said before this latest contest: "I've had only three hard fights in my life — against Eubank, McClellan and Malinga. I'm ready to go again with Collins. The last thing I want is to go out a loser."

It is a fascinating contest between two aggressive boxers. Collins wears opponents down with his non-stop aggression while Benn can end a contest with one punch. The outcome will depend on how much the defeat by Malinga took out of Benn.

Some experts believe that Benn lost the bout against Malinga because, after eight years of campaigning, the ferocious battle with

Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent, believes a former champion is capable of successful return

Gerald McClellan speeded up a decline and he had little to give against the South African. Certainly, being 32, signs of battle-weariness could have crept into that contest, but the more likely cause was that Malinga's style was wrong for Benn.

Benn had always had trouble with boxers and more so with big men who can box, such as Watson, Sanderline Williams, Lenzie Morgan and Mauro Galvano. Malinga was just such a man. After coming out of the shortest retirement in the history of boxing — one night —

Benn said: "I left it in the gym. I need someone who is going to bring out the fear in me and Collins is a good fighter. He did something I couldn't do, beat Eubank twice. Collins is right up my street. He ain't got to look for me and I ain't got to look for him."

The Collins of old, who troubled men such as Mike McCallum and Reggie Johnson, would almost certainly have posed serious problems for Benn, but the champion, too, has shown signs of declining since 1994.

Collins did not impress in his

first bout with Eubank, which was a rush-and-hold affair. He was marginally better in the second encounter with Eubank, but in his bout with Cornelius Carr, a novice by comparison, Collins gave the distinct impression that the old snap was no longer there. He seemed to be flailing about in a bath of treacle, so slow were his reactions.

The Irishman is a strategist and is certain to have studied Benn's style. It is most unlikely that Collins will try to punch it out with Benn. It would not be surprising if the Irishman resorts to spoiling tactics to put Benn off his stride in the early rounds and try to stop him later in the contest when Benn is at his most vulnerable.

If Benn can summon up even 50 per cent of the courage, energy and determination he showed in the bout with McClellan, he should have too much for Collins. The Irishman is not difficult to hit and Eubank showed that he can be floored. Benn could stop Collins in the middle rounds.

The show has an excellent programme, with two other title bouts on the undercard. Malinga defends his title against Vincenzo Nardello, of Italy, and the light middleweight double title bout between Steve Foster, of Salford, who holds the International Boxing Federation Inter-continental title, and Chris Pyatt, of Leicester, who is the Commonwealth champion, looks like being a cracker.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Switch to summer brings mixed results at turnstiles

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ALEX MURPHY was unsurprising in his criticism this week of summer rugby league. "Nobody should be afraid to alter course," he wrote in a newspaper column. "I bet the captain of the *Titanic* would have changed his route if he knew he was steaming towards an iceberg."

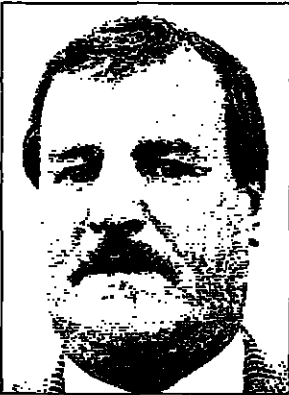
At Warrington, Murphy's club, and at several others, the sport's emergence from winter darkness into the summer light has hardly converted the masses. Constantly changing kick-off times and the squad number system do not help. However, talk of impending disaster is premature, given the overall modest improvements in crowds two-thirds of the way through the first Super League season.

Clubs like Warrington, which simply imagined the warmer weather would generate more activity at the turnstiles, have had a rude awakening. At Bradford Bulls, the single-minded pursuit of spectators has brought a doubling of crowds to an average of 9,000. Odsal, an ice box in winter, is where the cool box has become *de rigueur*.

Peter Deakin, Bradford's irrepressible marketing execu-

tive, has skillfully sold the Bulls to the public and local businesses. The number of families attending shows the club has tapped into a new audience. "It has been aggressive selling policy, but one that involved eight months of planning," he said.

So why, for instance, are Wiganers lounging in their gardens on match days and Bradfordians, usually an apathetic lot, holding barbecues on the Odsal car parks? While Bradford admitted their recent mistake in publicly tearing up a Warrington shirt before a game, otherwise the



Murphy: critical

pre-match entertainment is slick.

Reaching Wembley in the Challenge Cup final was an unexpected bonus, but it properly marked the arrival of the Bulls and the burial of their old "Northern" tag. Halifax crave public acceptance of their unfathomable new name — the Blue Sox. Crowds there are up 15 per cent on the last full 1994-95 winter programme.

Apathy still reigns in other towns and the ground improvements deemed an essential part of the new era are also slow in arriving. Toilets at many grounds are an affront, while the sunshine serves to highlight that Oldham's Water-sheddings ground is fit only for the wrecking ball. Castleford, Halifax and Warrington are almost as bad.

The normal 14,000 winter crowd at Wigan has been achieved only twice in the Super League, while gates at Leeds, traditionally the second-best attended club, are down a fifth on the last winter season — a vote on the team as much as summer rugby. What summer rugby is apparently bringing is a shift of a basic 50,000 supporters away from some of the traditional big clubs.

John Savage, chairman of the Rugby League Supporters' Association, said: "It's too early to say whether summer is a success or not. There's no doubting its popularity at Bradford, where some older supporters have been put off but younger ones have taken their places in greater numbers. Promotion, better marketing and improvements to facilities are lessons to be learned."

What rugby league and its followers need, but are unlikely to get, is a period of stability. Clubs have realised late that a 12-team Super League does not pay the bills. For South Wales to be "fast-tracked" in next year, the others must hand over five per cent of their already-budgeted £900,000 annual allocation from Super League. The fact that London and Sheffield are experiencing their best attendances gives weight to the pro-revolutionary argument about the game being transplanted nationally into areas of large population. Neither average attendance, however, is good enough for the sport to get carried away.

Summer rugby — fast and furious entertainment — is proving great value on mud-free pitches. Up against Euro 96 Test matches, Wimbledon, the Olympic Games and summer holidays, too many people have yet to see it.



Harris, the Wales and Warrington stand-off half, will undergo a fitness test before facing Halifax. Photograph: Mike Brett

Broncos aim to buck losing trend

Christopher Irvine says the London team are facing a test of character

SINCE drawing at Wigan four weeks ago, the London Broncos have followed their best results in the Super League with two of their most disappointing, being beaten by the Halifax Blue Sox and Bradford Bulls at home.

London face Sheffield Eagles tonight at The Valley, Charlton, knowing that another defeat would probably end their chances of finishing in the top four and securing a place in the play-offs — the realistic extent of their ambitions for the season.

A compromise of their attacking inclination for more defensive fortitude has only served to damage both causes.

Leo Dinevor spurred the Broncos into action against Bradford, even though his two tries were too late to spare them defeat, so his replacement of Kevin Langer at scrum half is of little surprise. Tony Martin, 17, a full back

from Brisbane, who has impressed in the Academy team, makes his debut, which allows Greg Barwick to switch into the centre and Tulsien Tollett to resume the Broncos' most effective half-back partnership, alongside Dinevor.

After Terry Matterson, the London captain, suffered a nasty throat injury in the Bradford match, Peter Gill takes over at loose forward. Iqram Butt has withdrawn with a groin strain and John Minto gets another chance on the wing.

Sheffield have won on their past three visits to London and can overtake the Broncos, moving into fifth place in the table if they manage a repeat of their 34-18 win in April. John Lawless, the England hooker, is still suffering from

thorpe (wrist) and Mark Jones (knee) will undergo late checks.

Oldham, who play at Leeds tomorrow, were unable to train yesterday because of the effects of a stomach bug. Jim Quinn, the club chairman, said: "The problem appears to have been caused by drinking water from a contaminated container and two-thirds of the players are affected."

Leeds will give late fitness tests to Kevin Iro and Francis Cummins, but both are doubtful.

Salford, the first division leaders, are unchanged for the visit of Whitehaven. Keighley Cougars and Huddersfield, placed second and third respectively, are in opposition at Cougar Park.

Prescot Panthers, the second division's bottom club, have dismissed Jim Crellin as coach after six months. Crellin had accused the board of failing to provide funding.

Cumbrian outpost stalked by fears of relegation

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE attendance figure could be almost as important as the result at Derwent Park, Workington, scene of the Super League relegation duel with Paris Saint-Germain tomorrow. Twice in this inaugural season, it has ducked below 2,000 and the French side's away support can fit into a small gill.

A win would not guarantee either team a permanent escape from the one relegation place, but would go a long way towards restoring confidence. Workington's need is the more urgent, for defeat would leave them four points adrift of Paris, who number the Cumbrian side as one of the two teams they have beaten in an otherwise sorry introductory season.

The shrinking crowds at Workington merely reflect a situation as dire as the financial one that nearly scuppered the team's involvement in the Super League before it began. Apart from drawing with Halifax at home and sneaking a win at the Oldham Bears, it has been a trail of failure.

The promising start by Paris is fast becoming a distant memory. They have lost on their past ten outings, yet, in running Warrington close and keeping Oldham's score within limits last week, a new-look side displayed some of the defensive backbone John Kear, the Rugby Football League coaching executive, is seeking to instil.

Kear has been seconded to Paris to prevent them going down. He has at his disposal five Australians — Phil Sheard, Ian Russell, Dion Bird, John Boslem and George Wilson — the sort of cavalry a battered Workington squad could do with.

The home side welcome back Mark Johnson, Paul Penrice and Lafaele Filipo from injury and Ross O'Reilly, the coach, remains optimistic. "Paris have had an influx of new players, but that could work for us," he said. "All the changes they've made mean that they haven't had the time to build team cohesion."

With the London Broncos, Wigan, St Helens and the Bradford Bulls yet to visit them and Leeds, the Halifax Blue Sox and Castleford to play away, Paris see beating Workington as their best and perhaps only route to salvation. "We will have to treat the match like a cup final," Patrick Ennat, their scrum half, said.

Leeds, in tenth place, renew acquaintance with Oldham, easy winners, over them three months ago, in pursuit of only a third home win.

Dean Hall, the Bramley prop, lost his appeal against a 15-month ban. He was sent off for elbowing against Hunslet last month.

A TIMES READER OFFER AND COMPETITION

Take a friend to a cricket match for 10p

PLUS win tickets to see England v Pakistan

The Times, in association with the TCCB, is offering readers the chance to watch some great county cricket and take a friend along for just 10p — the price of *The Times* every Monday throughout the summer.

You can choose from to spend a day at any one of 78 Britannic Assurance County championship matches listed in *The Times* this week.

We are also offering readers another chance to win a pair of tickets to one day of the England v Pakistan Cornhill Test Match at Lord's which starts on July 25. Our winner will also get a cricket bat signed by the England team, an England shirt, sweatshirt and baseball cap. Call 0891 771 263 with your answer to this question:

Who captained Pakistan on their 1992 England tour?
a) Imran Khan b) Javed Miandad c) Wasim Akram
The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight.

Call cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times.

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Tickets are subject to availability. Full terms and conditions of this offer were published in *The Times* on July 1, 1996.



THE TIMES
TOKEN
SIX

RUGBY UNION: CHAMPIONS SECURE FUNDING FOR WAGE BILL OF £1.5 MILLION

Bath acquire extra financial muscle

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE predators hovering over Bath's talented playing squad will have their hopes dashed next Friday when England's league and cup champions announce details of a £5 million investment and restructuring of the club.

The cash injection, which, under a confidentiality clause, Bath cannot confirm will come from Andrew Brownsword, will go a long way to ensuring that no more players follow Ben Clarke to Richmond or any other newly-enriched club.

Brownsword, 48, is a greeting-card millionaire who is based in the city and Bath officials have thrashed out details over the past four

months of an agreement that will also benefit shareholders in the club. Those details will be outlined at the annual meeting on July 18, but Bath's membership will be relieved that their playing resources will be no further depleted, after a decade of almost unrelenting success.

Apart from Clarke, only two other players, the props Darren Crompton and Chris Clark — neither first-team regulars — have left, also for Richmond. Such leading figures as Phil de Glanville and Jeremy Guscott are understood to be committed to the club.

"Let's just say that we expect to be able to announce an understanding which will give Bath the opportunity for a fruitful future," Richard

Mawditt, the chairman, said yesterday. It will also fund a wage bill estimated around £1.5 million per annum in the new professional era, considerably bigger than many leading clubs because of the high



Brownsword: millionaire

profile of so many Bath players.

Bath Guscott and Clarke are named in a world XV to play in a French XV in Agen today in a match to celebrate the retirement from international rugby of Philippe Sella, after a world-record 111 appearances. Sella will partner England's Will Carling in midfield and will have Michael Lynagh, who will be a colleague with Saracens next season, as his stand-off half.

The French team, recently returned from Buenos Aires after their 2-0 series win over Argentina, will be led by Philippe Saint-André and includes two recent transfers to English rugby in Laurent Cabannes and Laurent Benézech, both bound for Harlequins.

Old England XI

Sunday 7th July 2.00pm

Lords and Commons Cricket Club

The NatWest Old England XI

At Vincent Square, Westminster, London, SW1

Former Test and County players include:
Jim Parks, John Snow, John Lever, Derek Underwood, Derek Randall
Admission free. Programme price £2.
For further details call 0171 912 0342

Funds raised from programme sales will go to the United Cricket Board of South Africa Development Programme.
National Westminster Bank will donate £1 per run scored by the NatWest Old England XI to the Primary Club.
Registered Charity No. 285285.

NatWest

National Westminster Bank Plc. Registered Office 41 Lombury, London EC2P 2BP.

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN OSLO

[illegible][illegible]

BY MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER: Tampa Bay

STOCKPORT: Four match: England President's XI 1 United States 11.

BISLEY: Royal Navy pistol champ-

Woodroffe 5-3, 6-0.

100

Bugner reigns

Hockley's mark

Cricket: Heavy rain limited the third day of the second women's Test at Worcester to just 27.3 overs but that was still long enough for Debbie Hockley, the New Zealand opening batsman, to move on to 86 not out and become the third-highest run scorer in Test cricket behind Rachel Heyhoe Flint and Jan Brintin the England opener. New Zealand had reached 150 for two in reply to England's 276 all out.

Road workout

Cycling: Brian Smith and John Tanner, the only two riders in Britain's five-man Olympic road-race squad based in the United Kingdom, start their final preparation for Atlanta today in the Aberdeenshire classic, a new race on the calendar. The 190-mile is split into three stages.

Test chance

Cricket: Sri Lanka will play two Test matches against South Africa in March 1998, the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka said yesterday. The series, to be played in South Africa, is to be followed by a triangular one-day series in April that year involving South Africa, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Flying start

Golf: Bob Charles, of New Zealand, returned a course-record, six-under-par 66 to take a three-shot lead in the US Senior Open at Beachwood, Ohio, second place in this event in 1988. Graham Marsh, of Australia, who shot 69 was second, one shot better than Raymond Floyd, Dave Stockton and Bill Tindall. Brian Barnes, of England, was on 73 and Tony Jacklin on 74.

Nagy recovers

Speedway: Robert Nagy, from Hungary, is recovering from a broken leg and facial injuries sustained when crashing off his bike into the perimeter fence and being run over accidentally by Roman Matousek, of Sheffield, when riding for Long Eaton at Sheffield on Thursday last night.

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: North Melbourne 21 18 (144) H Carlton 13 11 (89).

AFRICAN LEAGUE: Chicago 6

land 5 (in 10); New York 4 Milwaukee 1; Baltimore 8 Boston 6; Oakland 8 California 7 (in 11); Kansas City 5 Minnesota 3; Detroit 6 Toronto 1, Seattle 9 Texas 5

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 8 Florida 5, Cincinnati 2 Chicago 1; St. Louis 7 Pittsburgh 1; San Diego 8 San Francisco 4, Los Angeles 3, San Francisco 5 Atlanta 2.

BOWLS

BELFAST: Home International Champion-
ship: Ulster Transport; Scollard bt Chan-
nel Islands 139-93 (Scott skips first: G Hood
tr S Masterion 28-7; G Adrain bt B Simon
23-16; J Aitken bt P Ingrouille 24-16; W
Wood lost to B Le Marquand 17-25; A
Hood lost to C Burrell 22-17; B Corsie bt P

Fire stops first. P Smyth lost to A Alloock 21-23; G McCloy to J Bell 22-15; G Scott lost to

T Henger 20-23; S Allen bt C Smith 24-19; R Graham lost to A Thomson 19-21; C Parkinson lost to D Ward 28-15; Camlotfergus Ireland bt Wales 141-84 (he skips first; N Graham bt T Mounty 24-14; E Parkinson lost to D Wiggins 17-18; P Smyth bt M Anstey 20-14, G McCloy bt S Weshire 26-17; G Scott bt W Thomas 21-18; S Allen bt R Waleale 33-5); Wales bt Chennel Islands 117-100 (Wales skips first; M Anstey bt P Hingroule 29-9; S Weshire lost to D Le Marquand 17-22; W Thomas lost to C Renouf 15-21; R Waleale lost to B James 14-15; T Mounty lost to M de Gertzer 17-21; D Wiggins bt B Simon 25-12).

Scotland	4	3
Ireland	4	3
England	4	3

Wales	4	1	3	-68	2
Channel Islands	4	0	4	-168	0

CRICKET

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (F-

195-8 dec and 194-8 dec; Staffordshire
192-6 dec and 213-7. Staffordshire won 1

[illegible]

out), Colorado 2 New York
New England 1 Los Angeles

GOLF

LEMONY, Illinois: Western Open; Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 64: B. Bryant, 65: S. Shickler, 67: B. McCollister, L. James, L. Miles, N. Ayres, J. Sumner, J. Ozard (Japan), J. D. Blake, 68: C. Rios, D. Love, P. Jacobson, B. Craneshaw, M. Brooks, T. Hemon, J. Funk, J. Acosta, 69: B. Andrade, J. Leonard, J. Carter, G. White (NZ), M. Calcasieu, F. Funk, P. McClelland, D. Prosser, D. Foreman, J. Kelly, C. Perry (Aus), P. Jordan.

OTHER SCORES: 70: N. Price (Zim), S. Ellington (Aus), 71: W. Grady (Aus), N. Falso (GB), V. Singh (Fiji), G. Norman (Aus), J. Parnwick (Sri Lanka).

LACROSSE

STOCKPORT: Tour match: England President's XI 1, United States 11.

CORDOBA: Argentina Rally

RUGBY LEAGUE

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERSHIP: Western Reds 14 Gold Coast 14; Newcastle 14 Canberra 15; Auckland 24 South Sydney 10.

RUGBY UNION

STUDENT WORLD CUP: Pool A: England 6 France 35 (in Johannesburg), Pool B: Argentina 56 Ireland 37 (in Johannesburg).

SHOOTING

RISLEY: Royal Navy patrol champ-

mand) 1015; 2. Cook S Foryam (Phym-
cuth) 990; 3. Lt A Vincent (Air Command)
958 Testy; 1. Air Command 7454; 2.

TENNIS

NEWPORT: LTA Rebook Tour: Men: Quarter-finals: C Singer (US) bt N Neal (Hampshire) 7-6, 6-4; K Bibby (Hertford and Worcester) bt Z Zackay (Sussex) 2-6, 6-1, 6-0. T. Spinks (Walsley) bt N Neal (Sussex) 6-2, 5-6, 6-1. Semi-finals: C Singer bt G. T. Spinks (Walsley) 6-2, 6-1; K Bibby bt Z. Zackay (Sussex) 6-2, 6-4. Women: Quarter-finals: N Egorova (Russia) bt T Cellow (Middlesex) 6-4, 6-2; I. Wyeth (Oxfordshire) bt J Jones (South Wales) 6-2, 6-4. Semi-finals: N Egorova bt J Jones (South Wales) 6-2, 6-4; I. Wyeth bt J. Jones (South Wales) 6-2, 6-4. Final: N Egorova bt I. Wyeth 6-1, 6-3. At Newport 6-2, 6-4.

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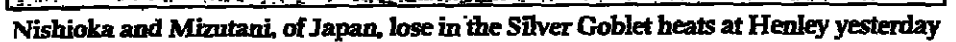
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TENNIS: SÁNCHEZ VICARIO STANDS BETWEEN SINGLES CHAMPION AND FURTHER ENTRY IN GAME'S HISTORY BOOKS

Graf poised to overtake Wills Moody

By ALIX RAMSAY

HISTORY awaits Steffi Graf today as she walks on to the Centre Court. By beating Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, she would win her seventh Wimbledon championship and her twentieth grand slam singles title. Victory would take her past Helen Wills Moody's record of achievement at the big four events and, in the all-time list, it would place Graf second, just four titles away from Margaret Court's tally of 24. As if that, together with the £353,000 winner's cheque, was not enough, it would also be her 100th career title.

Does she think about the record books? "No, not at all," she said. "It's nothing I am going for. Maybe other people see it is within my reach, but for me it seems difficult." Not that she does not care about winning at Wimbledon — "It gets more special every time" — it is just that she is not thinking about numbers.

She almost lost her semi-final against Kimiko Date. Steaming away with the first set on Thursday evening, she was brought to an abrupt halt



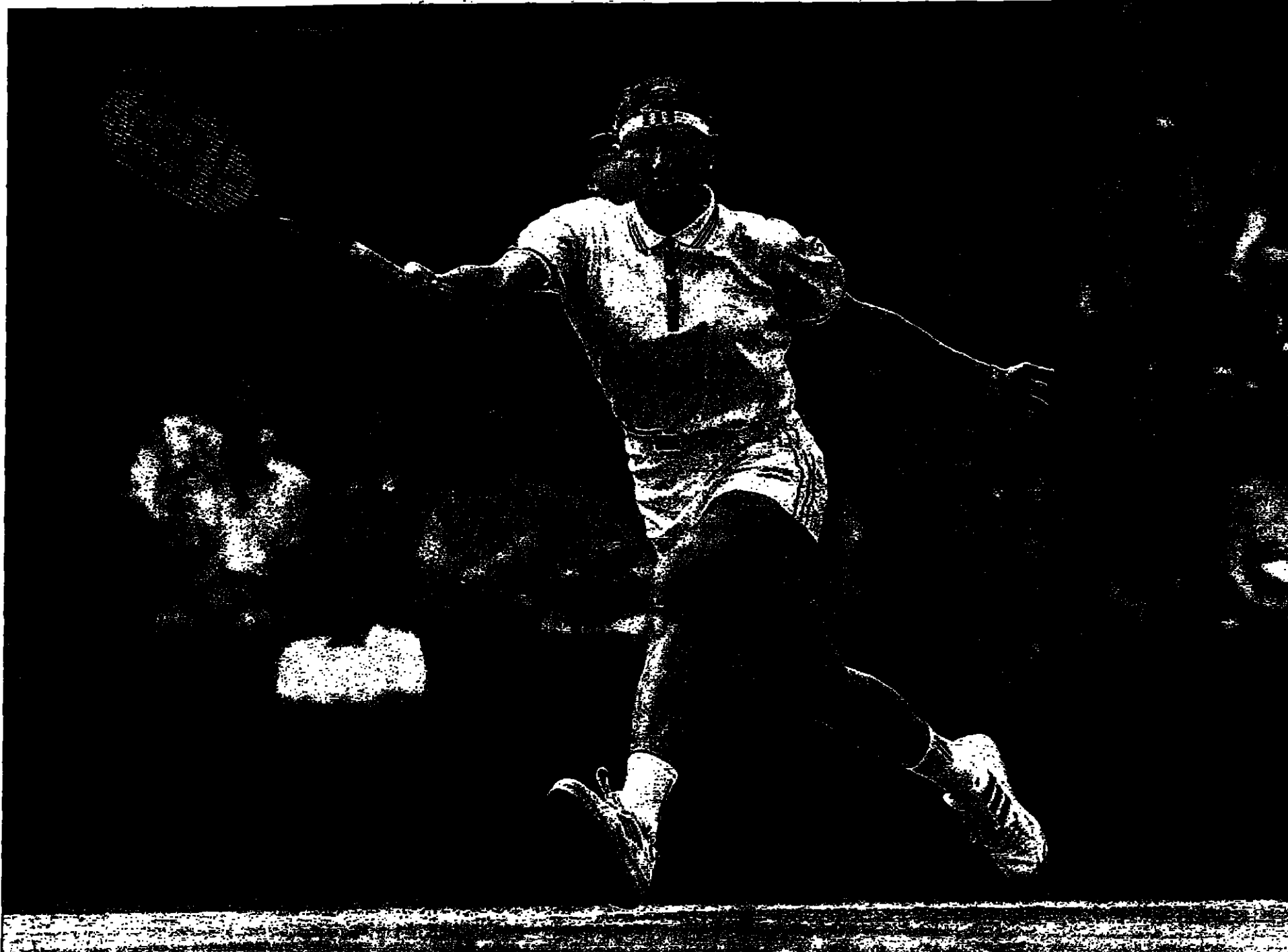
by the tenacious Japanese. Date, who looks as if you could knock her over with a feather, hung on, hit the lines and won six games in a row. Only at 9pm was the champion saved by bad light.

Playing the third set while most of the Centre Court spectators were still fighting their way through the morning traffic yesterday, Graf did not look well. Coughing and spluttering with the effects of a heavy cold, she stuttered through the opening games.

Only when she finally landed a couple of winners in the sixth game did she manage to break Date's service and, even then, it took her three match points before she could move into the final 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

Graf has only lost one Wimbledon final, her first — and that against Martina Navratilova in 1987. Navratilova's record of nine titles at Wimbledon used to seem untouchable, but, as Graf eyes up the trophy for the seventh time, suddenly the record is there to be broken. Beating Graf on grass in the final is no easy matter — only Navratilova has succeeded.

Gabriela Sabatini gave her a run for her money in 1991,



Graf stretches athletically to make a forehand return during her resumed quarter-final against Date on the Centre Court yesterday morning. Photograph: Ian Stewart.

only for Graf to win 8-6 in the third set. Jana Novotna was reeling her in nicely in 1993, only to watch in dismay as Graf got away again; and last year Sánchez Vicario was within touching distance of the title before Graf whipped it from her grasp.

Graf and Sánchez Vicario go back a long way. They have met 35 times and, so far, Sánchez Vicario has only won eight times. However, four of those victories have come at grand slam tournaments, the big matches when the chips were down. Last year was Graf's turn, but the whole match turned on a memorable 20-minute game in the third set. Whoever won that — and the chances for both were

legion with 32 points and 13 deuces — would win the title and Graf duly obliged.

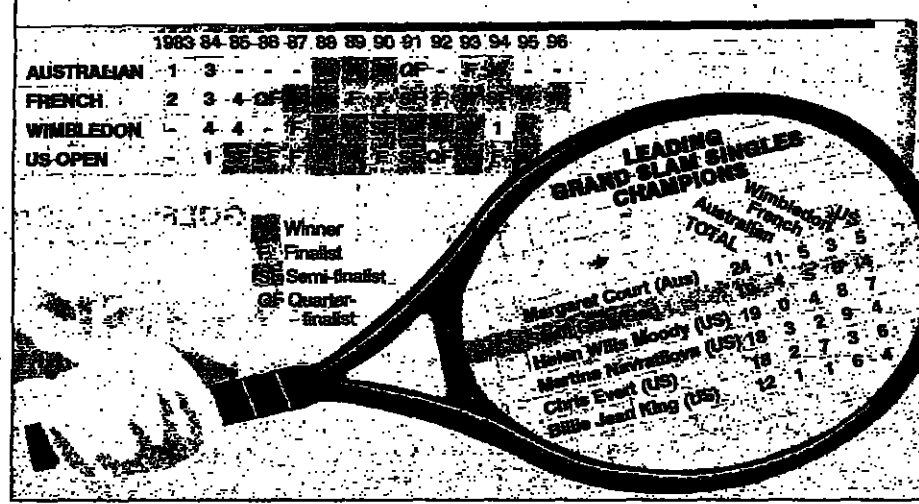
"I think you have seen plenty of us in the finals," Graf said, "and I think the way the last few finals have been going, even if people say it's the same match again, there has been some spectacular tennis and no boring finals. Hopefully it's going to be another great match."

Going into the final, Sánchez Vicario looks the sharper of the two. Her speedy 6-2, 6-1 win over Meredith McGrath proved her theory that she is getting better round by round. When it comes to playing on grass, Sánchez Vicario is now happiest on the attack, quite a turnaround for the clay court

baseliner of old. Graf, by contrast, looked like she should be back in bed, tucked up with a hot water bottle. With so much at stake for the Spaniard, Graf can expect little sympathy.

One month ago, Sánchez Vicario had her best chance to crack Graf's domination in Paris. She served for the match twice and still ended up the loser in three sets. That defeat hurt more than most. Wimbledon last year was a bonus. Paris this year was hers for the taking and she let it go. If Graf is one of the toughest competitors when it matters most, Sánchez Vicario runs her a close second and she does not intend to make the same mistake again.

GRAF'S MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS



Lee keeps British ambition alive in boys' event

By ALIX RAMSAY

TIM HENMAN may have gone, but there is still a British survivor at Wimbledon. Martin Lee is still flying the flag in the boys' singles and is attempting to make his way to the semi-finals. Ivan Ljubicic, from Croatia, stands in his way and, if the rain continues, he will remain there for some time. When the heavens opened yet again yesterday, Lee was leading 3-2 in the first set.

Lee, the No 8 seed, has had a simple run, neatly making his way through the rounds without dropping a set. He is the sole survivor from a group of seven British players, most of whom failed to make it beyond the second round.

Of the six Britons who started the girls' singles, none remained after three rounds. Amanda Janes, daughter of the former Wimbledon finalist, Christine Janes, was the last hope, but she went out late on Thursday night to Olga Barabanshchikova, from Belorussia. It was Janes's second match of the day, having previously beaten the No 4 seed, Sandra Kleinova, 6-2, 6-1. She could not repeat the feat against Barabanshchikova, losing 6-2, 6-0. Still, it was not an ignominious defeat; her opponent will partner Natasha Zvereva in doubles at the Olympic Games.

It was not all doom and gloom for the girls, however. Jasmine Choudhury and Louise Latimer pulled off a good win over the No 1 seeds in the doubles, Giulia Casoni, from Italy, and Kristina Trska, of Sweden, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 yesterday. It took almost two hours, but they just managed to squeak through before the rain.

Henman will compete in the Bournemouth International Open from September 9 to 15. The British No 1, who travels to Ghana for a Davis Cup tie in the Euro/Africa Zone group two next week, will join the former French Open champion, Sergi Bruguera, and his fellow Spaniard, Alberto Costa, in the line-up at the West Hants Club.

John Feaver, the former British Davis Cup player who will be tournament director at Bournemouth, believes that the emergence of Henman and other British players such as Luke Milligan will help to boost attendances.

"Home fans in any country need home-grown players to win in order to create that special kind of excitement that we saw this year at Wimbledon," Feaver said.

Navratilova works to rule

By ALIX RAMSAY

RETIREMENT is supposed to be relaxing, a time to enjoy the fruits of a lifetime's labour, a time to try all those things you never had time to do when you were working. It is not supposed to be hard graft, but that is what Martina Navratilova and her partner, Jonathan Stark, have made of getting to the quarter-finals of the mixed doubles.

Yesterday they managed to dodge much of the rain and grind out a 7-6, 6-7, 7-5 victory over Karin Kschwendt and Marcos Ondruska in a little over two hours. Arriving triumphant, if a little battle-weary, in the quarter-finals, they discovered they were the lucky ones. With four days of rain, the doubles schedule, like everything else at Wimbledon, has been thrown into chaos. In the only other match to be finished, a mixed doubles, Luke Jensen and Nicole

Arendt beat Scott Draper and Liz Smylie 6-7, 7-5, 6-4.

Just when Navratilova had thought she had left all this behind, she finds herself back in the thick of it. The frustrations of rain delays, the backlog of matches — it all conspires to test the players' patience, but Navratilova is loving every minute of it. She has not played competitively since the US Open last September and the results show that the old campaigner is a little rusty. Yet back on court she is having a ball.

The trick is to pick the right partner and, in Stark, she has found an experienced doubles man. Together with her own not inconsiderable knowledge, they can hit the ground running whenever they play. They may have to keep running a little longer these days to get through the rounds, but Navratilova is as eager to win

as ever. To keep fit between grand slam tournaments, she has turned her hand to a variety of sports, including sailing. With the amount of rain at Wimbledon this year, it may well stand her in good stead.

Arantxa Sánchez Vicario had a small problem on her hands. While Steffi Graf could go home and prepare for the singles final today after finishing off her match against Kimiko Date, Sánchez Vicario spent most of the day kicking her heels in the locker-room. With Jana Novotna, she skipped past Kristie Boogert and Irina Spiridon, the No 11 seeds in the women's doubles, 6-3, 6-3 in the morning, but had to wait to see if she could get back on court to play the quarter-final match against the No 8 seeds, Martina Hingis and Helena Sukova.

Men's singles

Winner: £392,500
Runners-up: £196,250
Holder: P Sampras (US)
Semi-finals
T MARTIN (US) level with M Washington (US) 7-6, 4-6, 6-3

Women's singles

Winner: £353,000
Runners-up: £176,500
Holder: S Graf (Ger)
Semi-final
S GRAF (Ger) bt K DATE (Japan) 6-2, 2-6, 6-3

Men's doubles

Winners: £180,810
Runners-up: £90,400
Holder: T A Woodbridge and M Woodforde (Aus)
Quarter-finals
M PHILIPPOUSSIS and P RAFTER (Aus) bt G FORGET (Fr) and J HLESEK (Swi) 7-5, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4

Semi-final
B BLACK (Zim) and G CONNELL (Can) bt E FERRERA (SA) and J SIEMERINK (Hol) 6-4, 6-2, 7-6

Women's doubles

Winners: £139,040
Runners-up: £69,500
Holder: J Novotna (Cz) and A Sánchez Vicario (Sp)
Third round
M J McGRATH (US) and L NEILAND (Lat) bt A DECHAUME-BALLERET and S TESTUD (Fr) 6-3, 6-1

Quarter-finals
J NOVOTNA (Cz) and A SÁNCHEZ VICARIO (Sp) bt K BOOGERT (Hol) and I SPIRLEA (Rom) 6-3, 6-3

Mixed doubles

Winners: £68,280
Runners-up: £34,140
Holder: J Stark (US) and M Navratilova (US)
Second round
D E SEPSTORD and S A SICKEL (GB) bt T Nijssen (Hol) and C Porwik (Ger) 6-4, 6-7, 6-4

Quarter-finals
P GAUBRATH and P H SHRIVER (US) bt S MacPhie and T S Whittinger-Jones (US) 6-4, 6-4

Third round
R Berr (Swe) and K Po (US) bt P Cash (Aus) and M Pierce (Fr) 6-3, 6-4

Men's Over-35 doubles

Winners: £13,250
Runners-up: £10,500
Holder: P McNamara (Aus) and L Shires (US)
First round
J B Fitzgerald (Aus) and R Tanner (US) bt R L Case and R J Frawley (Aus) 6-4, 6-3

Quarter-finals
M R Edmondson and K Warwick (Aus) bt B E Gottfried (US) and R Ramirez (Mex) 6-1, 6-2

Semi-final
A A Meyer and G Meyer (US) bt S Glickstein (Jer) and P F McNamara (Aus) 4-6, 1-1 ret

Final
K Curran and J C Niek (US) bt Gottfried and Ramirez 7-5, 6-4

Women's Over-35 doubles

Winners: £9,400
Runners-up: £7,200
Holder: W M Turnbull (Aus) and S V Wade (GB)
First round
J M Quine (GB) and A E Smith (US) bt K Courtney and G E Reid (Aus) 6-1, 6-3

Quarter-finals
M Jeausovic (Slovenia) and Y Vermaak (SA) bt R Coats (US) and B F Slovic (Hol) 6-0, 7-5

Boys' singles

Holder: O Mullis (Fr)
Third round
M Lee (GB) bt A Di Pasquale (Fr) 6-2, 6-4

Quarter-finals
N Mullis (Croat) bt R Coats (Fr) 7-5, 6-4

Semi-final
P Schachman (Thea) bt A Hadad (Ger) 2-6, 6-4, 7-5

Second round

Schachman bt D Roberts (SA) 7-6, 6-4
Bracciali bt G Abrams (US) 6-4, 6-3
Kim bt M Daniel (B) 7-5, 6-7, 6-4
Robichaud bt M Sandstrom (Swe) 6-3, 7-5
Mauze bt D Davis-Cruz (Phi) 6-3, 6-2
Ljubicic bt B C Rahnqvist (Swe) 7-5, 6-4
Brandt bt S Grozjan (Fr) 6-4, 7-5

Crabb bt M Puerta (Arg) 6-4, 6-4
Bryan bt M Russell (US) 6-4, 6-3
Volchikov bt W Whitehouse (GB) 6-3, 6-4
Wessala bt J Pequeury (Fr) 6-1, 4-6, 7-5

Girls' singles

Holder: A Oliva (Pol)
Quarter-finals
Sickot bt Barabanshchikova 6-7, 7-5, 6-1
Maurer bt Gryboskova 6-2, 6-4

Third round
O Barabanshchikova (Bel) bt A Janes (GB) 6-2, 6-4
A G Scott (Fr) bt J Slack (SA) 6-3, 6-3
M Serra (Sp) bt A Cocheteau (Fr) 6-2, 7-5
M Jeon (S Kor) bt Z Votavova (Slovakia) 6-1, 3-6, 6-2

S. Reeves (US) bt A Elwood (Aus) 7-6, 1-6, 6-2
Second round
Serra bt K Stacey (Pol) 6-2, 6-2
Maurer bt Y J Cho (S Kor) 6-4, 6-2
Cocheteau bt T Pouchet (Bel) 6-2, 6-4
Sickot bt C Black (Zim) 6-2, 6-7, 6-1
Schachman bt A Morganti (Japan) 6-4, 6-3
Reeves bt S de Bler (SA) 6-4, 6-3
Votavova bt P Schwyder (Swi) 6-4, 7-5
Dachy bt K Maroz (Hung) 6-0, 6-2

MAKE YOUR FIRST SERVE COUNT.

DESIGNED FOR SPORT

DAY JULY 6 1996
Lee keeps
British
ambition
alive in
boys' event

TENNIS: FIRST SEMI-FINAL HANGS IN THE BALANCE AS WASHINGTON AND MARTIN ARE FORCED TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY

Forgotten men still searching for light

Simon Barnes sees darkness fall early on a men's semi-final shorn of stars

Curiouser and curiouser. This strangest of Wimbledon continued to unwind before us yesterday. For a moment, it seemed that normality had been restored. Steffi Graf beating the ambidextrous Kimiko Date, but this was just a simple dramatic device to throw the weird events that followed into higher relief. Darkness fell over SW19, a counterfeit night of black clouds — and, of course, the stars did not shine. They have all been knocked out. So this starless Wimbledon,



the Wimbledon of the Black Hole, continued. The first men's semi-final began, between Who-He and I'm-sure-I've-Heard-Of-Him-Just-Let-Me-Look-Him-Up. In fact, Todd Martin and MaliVai Washington have both been around for some time; they just don't win big tournaments. Yet here they are, locked at two sets apiece. Tomorrow, both step forward to answer the overwhelming questions of the semi-final.

was attempting to become the first black Wimbledon finalist since Arthur Ashe in 1975. The most famous fact about Washington is that, two years ago, he was voted one of the Top 50 Most Beautiful People in the World by something called People magazine. Martin — how can I put this kindly? — was probably not a big part of the magazine's decision-making process.

The killer fact about Martin is his height: 6ft 6in. Now, a lot of people talk about such physically exceptional people as if they had some kind of almost unfair advantage; that the bigger you are, the better you must be. If that were so, all sports would be the domain of giants. This is not actually true of American football and is not even quite true of basketball. The fact is that, in most ball games, there are some players who are exceptional physically and they always look as if this gives them an unfair advantage.

This is true whatever size or build they are. We have been watching Sachin Tendulkar, 5ft 4in, knocking seven bells out of the England bowling over the past couple of days and we all know about that stocky midget called Diego. The point at issue is not that such players have an exceptional build; it is that they are exceptional.

For, in most ball games, there is a trade-off. At times, Martin, worked from side to side of the court by Henman, needed to do a three-point turn to get back in position. Yesterday, Washington sent some fizzing service returns to the feet of the incoming Martin — and that is a long way down.



Washington saved his best tennis for the fourth set of his semi-final with Martin at Wimbledon yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

However, Martin knows how to use his bulk. When he crowds the net, he is one of the most intimidating sights in tennis — and a lot of tennis is about intimidation. You can try to pass him, but he has a huge wing-span and has infinitely quicker hands than seems right for a man of his size.

Some lob. To get it up high enough and then to bring it down again in time — these tasks were mostly beyond Washington. Martin hammered his attempts back with routine brutality. Solid, that is the word. Martin's solid serve is backed up by a big, solid man with a solid nature. Washington, stocky and muscular, looks like a middleweight, but, for long periods, Martin made

him look like a lightweight. Being Washington's coach is not a job I would fancy. You feel that, if he were to play his best tennis all the time, he would be among the best players around; if he only played his best half the time, he'd be in most grand slam semi-finals by right.

The fourth set was one of the most extraordinary seen at Wimbledon this year. For some extraordinary, quite un-

accountable reason, Washington started to play his best tennis. He had been roundly beaten in the first set, recovered, a mile luckily, to win the second, but then it looked, again, as if order had been restored. Martin, standing to his full height, took the third set tie-break with visibly growing confidence.

FOOTBALL

Taylor alarmed by spate of foreign signings

By Peter Ball

THE signings earlier this week of Fabrizio Ravanelli and Florin Raducioiu may have brought joy to the North East and to East London, but they were greeted with gloom in another quarter yesterday. Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), warned that the influx of foreign players into the Premiership could stifle the growth of local talent.

"There is now an awful lot of money going out of our game and clubs need to be reminded of their responsibilities," Taylor said. "The pattern now is to go for a ready-made international rather than a rough diamond. Clubs want ready-made success. Most are not prepared to be patient."

He added: "The success of England in Euro 96 shows that we have to put more resources into youth development. I wouldn't want that momentum to be lost."

This is not the first time that Taylor has voiced such fears and his timing may not be perfect in the week that Lee Bowyer and Ben Thatcher both broke transfer records with moves to Leeds United and Wimbledon respectively.

However, Taylor is concerned about the future of young players at the clubs which are now spending the £7m that Middlesbrough paid for Ravanelli or even the £24m West Ham paid for Raducioiu. "The North East used to be a regular breeding ground with people like Alan Shearer, Paul Gascoigne, Chris Waddle and Peter Beardsley coming through," Taylor said.

"Now Newcastle and Middlesbrough are turning instead to seasoned internationals. That might be good from a spectator's point of



Taylor: 'stifling talent'

view but we need to strike a balance and help the young players. West Ham got to the Youth Cup Final last season. Yet how many of that team is going to break through, now they are signing so many players from abroad?"

There must surely be space for players such as Ravanelli and Raducioiu for both are outstanding strikers who could adorn the Premiership. But the real problem perhaps is the spread of lesser names. Nottingham Forest yesterday confirmed that they are trying to sign the 31-year-old Croatia defender, Nikola Jerkan and this week Manchester United signed the Norwegian duo of Ronnie Johnsen and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer from Besiktas and Molde respectively.

Meanwhile, Blackburn Rovers are moving to keep their English players at Ewood Park. Tim Flowers has agreed a new five-year contract, following the examples of Jason Wilcox and Colin Hendry who have also signed contracts keeping them at Ewood Park until the next century.

Blackburn's decision to put their players on long contracts, while fighting off Manchester United's attempt to lure Shearer away, has been criticised by the Bosman Ruling allowing free transfers for movements to Europe at the end of a contract.

One player did move yesterday, Barcelona going back to Portugal for Vitor Baia, after their bid to sign Andreas Köpke, the German goalkeeper, fell down because he had already signed forms for Stuttgart.

Chelsea yesterday completed the signing of the Italian midfield player, Roberto Di Matteo, from Lazio for a club record £4.9 million. Di Matteo becomes Chelsea's second Italian star after the recruitment of Gianluca Vialli and joins the London club just two days after they completed the formalities of the France defender Franck Leboeuf's move from Strasbourg for £2.5 million.

Bending the rules to make medal available

NOW it is one of those strange but true facts that there are rules in the sport of Australian No Rules Football, and it is a minority view that these rules are actually quite important. The sport's greatest individual honour is the Brownlow Medal, which every year since 1924, has been awarded to the "best and fairest" player. It has long been the tradition to take both halves of this tag with equal seriousness, so much so that any player who is found guilty of misbehaviour is automatically disqualified from Brownlow Medal consideration.

But no longer. Now, if you are merely fined, and not actually suspended, you are still in the running for the medal. Bob Skilton, who won the Brownlow three times in the 1960s, was enthusiastic about the change: "I reckon everybody should be able to win it, whether they're rubbed out or not," he said. He went on to say that the "fairest" part of the tag should be dropped; what, after all, has fairness to do with sport?

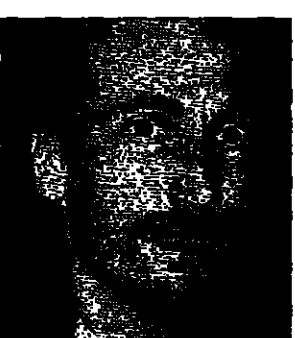
The problem is that a lot of players have been fined of late for "minor offences" such as wrestling and pushing, and in mêlées. As C. B. Fry said, when both sides agree to cheat, it is commonly accepted that cheating is fair.

Having a ball

Can we have our ball back please? The plea is part of the eternal pattern of English life: I can now reveal that it is also part of the Italian experience. Giovanni Battista Mironi lives in Alessandria and the local football team trains on ground adjacent to his orchard. Mironi is 70 and, over the years, has grown a mite fed up with balls flying into his land and with the damage caused by the lads clambering in to collect them. So he sued 19 members of the team for violation of domicile and damage.

The president of the football club, Carlo Biratti, then counter-sued for damage and illegal appropriation. Old Mironi won the case and was granted a cool million in damages, though since the sum is in lira, he won't

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

actually be able to retire on it, it is worth about £450 — and he was ordered to return the balls he had been keeping, as a gesture of goodwill. All 52 of them.

Name game

Congratulations to *The International Who's Who* for their presence. They included for the first time in the latest edition the name of Todd Martin, who defeated our Brave Boy at Wimbledon this week. They have also included their first American footballer — a chap named O. J. Simpson.

No bust-up

Now for a quick thought about sex. I am sure you will all be relieved to know that Alison Williamson, the British archery champion, will not be disciplined by the Grand National Archery Society after she posed topless for *Esquire* magazine. She

did so, she said, to attract attention to her sport. In a quite astonishing display of grown-upness, that rarest of rare commodities in sport, John Middleton, chief executive of the society, dismissed the business out of hand. "It's even less than a storm in a teacup."

Beer match

Here is a sporting event that some may consider just the tiniest bit politically incorrect. This is the sport of woman carrying and it takes place today in Finland in the village of Sonkajärvi. The idea is to select a woman from the group available and to carry her over a tough obstacle course of a little under 300 yards. It is an event that provides one of the classic dilemmas in sport: clearly there is logic behind the play of selecting the smallest woman available, but the catch comes with the prize, which is the weight of the woman selected in beer.

Keeping ahead

The sympathies of this column go to the goalkeeper of the week, Carlos Bosio, of Estudiantes de la Plata, in Argentina, who narrowly failed to add to his season's tally of goals when he hit the bar from a free kick. He has scored once so far, with a last-minute header against Racing Club. The leading goalie in Argentina is José Luis Chilavert, who plays for Vélez Sarsfield, and has scored for them three times; a penalty and two free kicks.

Price of gold

The average monthly wage in Russia is less than \$150 (about £100). Boris Yeltsin has promised that any athlete who wins a gold medal at the Olympic Games will get \$50,000; he will also award the same amount for an "outstanding achievement". It takes your average Russian 55 years to earn the same amount. Meanwhile, I learn that the American basketball player, Shaquille O'Neal, who seems to be singularly impressed by himself, has been insured for the duration of the Olympic Games for the sum of \$50 million.



GOLF: SAND STORM FOLLOWED BY RAIN ON SECOND DAY OF IRISH OPEN

Woosnam lashes out at bunkers

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN NEWTONMOUNTKENNEDY
CO WICKLOW

AS RAIN, hailstones and thunder interrupted the afternoon play in the Murphy's Irish Open, causing an hour's delay, Ian Woosnam probably sat back in his hotel room, rubbed his hands and asked for more of the same. He had finished by then and his round of 70 at Druids Glen, one better than the day before, was good enough to leave him, at one under par, right in the thick of things at the halfway stage.

By then, too, Miguel Angel Martin had returned a 68 to be on 138, three under par, the same total as Peter Hedblom, the strikingly blond Swede who won in Morocco near the start of the season. A 68 by Andrew Coltart put him two under par, level with Ignacio Garrido, Wayne Westner and Andrew Oldcorn.

The mutterings of discontent about the course did not diminish on the second day. Woosnam beefed about there being too much sand in the bunkers, an echo of remarks

that Colin Montgomerie had made at The Oxfordshire a few weeks ago, and a viewpoint with which Martin agreed. "It was twice in bunkers and they're almost unplayable," Martin said. "Every week, the bunkers are terrible," Woosnam said. "There is far too much sand in them. If they took three inches out of every bunker, I reckon there would still be too much. I reckon courses put in lot of sand for the amateurs because they find it easier, but professionals don't want so much."

Woosnam can moan with the best of them and it may be that he has a point, but to weekend golfers, used to professionals whingeing about bumpy greens, tricky fairways, thick rough and at least

half a dozen other things, these complaints fall on deaf ears. Woosnam is a professional, after all, one of the best in the world. He ought to be able to play the shot required. A new complaint was that some holes were too severe, which begs the question: when is a golf hole fair or severe and when is it too difficult? Robert Trent Jones said that a good golf hole should be a difficult par, but a comfortable bogey. The 11th is a par five reachable in two, but only by clearing a 60-yard stretch of stubbly rough grass between the end of the fairway and the putting surface.

By Jones's yardstick, the 11th is a very good hole, though Bernhard Langer and David Feherty would proba-

bly disagree. Feherty's second ended 25 yards short and he took four more to hole out. Langer's approach shot made a spirited effort to reach the green but pulled up a few feet short. He would probably have rather been 50 yards from the flag than 25 feet, because he then had to play one of those difficult chips from the thick rough that he dislikes so much. His ball went eight feet too far and he pretended to bang his club into the ground in exasperation. Then he two-putted for a par. Darren Clark was another player close in two who took six.

It was left to Michael Campbell to demonstrate how to play the hole correctly. His second shot was long and accurate enough to thud into the putting surface, demonstrating that a birdie can be achieved, but only by reaching the green in two — as Colin Montgomerie was to do minutes later.

The hole, in short, demands that if you go for the green, you had better make sure you hit the stroke properly. What, after all, could be fairer than that?

68 and he unless stated

138: C Montgomerie 69, 69, 139: P Hedblom (Swe) 71, 68, M A Martin (Sp) 71, 68, 140: A Coltart 72, 68, W Westner (SA) 70, 70, 141: Garrido (Sp) 71, 69, A Oldcorn 72, 68, 142: L Westwood 70, 71, 143: M A Martin 71, 70, 144: J Garrido 72, 68, W Westner (SA) 70, 70, 145: C Mason 74, 69, 146: S Tomlinson 71, 72, A Jones (Zim) 73, 70, J Coorens (Arg) 71, 72, R Murray (Aus) 73, 70, M Linn 73, 70, J Henderson (Swe) 74, 72, E B E (SA) 73, 70, B Langer (Ger) 74, 69, F Hedblom (S) 71, 72, 147: P Baker 74, 70, D A
Russell 71, 72, R Russell 74, 70, R Drummond 72, 72, S Tennant (Don) 72, 72, P J Johnson (Swe) 69, 75, P McIlrath 72, 72, 148: D Hooper (Sp) 75, 70, M Turner 75, 69, G Evans 78, 65, R Chapman 72, 72, P O'Malley (Aus) 75, 70, S Armit (Ire) 71, 74, 149: M Ross 75, 71, J Payne 77, 69, D Chopra (Swe) 73, 73, R Rafferty 74, 72, A Lyle 75, 71, R Burns 75, 74, D Howard 73, 72, M Hallberg (Swe) 73, 70, E Giraud (Fr) 75, 70, 147: J Beckerton 75, 71, D Williams 74, 72, J Sandelin (Swe) 74, 73, J Fiebert (Sp) 76, 71, C Sorenson 76, 71, D Clarke 76, 69.

Norman in limelight yet again

IT WOULD seem that life is rarely dull for Greg Norman with the Australian seemingly heading for another controversy before attempting to win the Open Championship for a third time at Royal Lytham and St Annes.

He followed his collapse against Nick Faldo in the US Masters by being disqualified from last week's Greater Hartford Open for using a wrongly stamped ball — now he will lead a delegation of players to discuss leadership style with his fellow Australian, David Graham, the captain of an international team to play the United States in Washington in September.

The Australian's first priority was to improve his position in yesterday's Motorola Western Open in Chicago where he and Faldo were seven strokes behind American Brad Bryant, who led the first round by one shot with 64.

Swedes squelch on regardless

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN COLOGNE

THE Swedish connection squelched steadily onwards in the second round of the Hennessy Cup at the Golf und Landclub Cologne yesterday.

Given the unremitting, relentless rain, it should have been re-christened the Wasserschub, but Helen Alfredsson and Liselotte Neumann maintained their premier positions with rounds of 70, two under par, for a total of 138, six under.

Lisa Hackney, the Midlander who is the Welsh Open champion, belied her nickname of Hackers to be two shots behind on 140. She split the Scandinavian axis, being a stroke ahead of Annika Sorenstam, the defending champion, and Karina Orum, the Dane. The only other player under par was Trish Johnson, of England, the last non-Swede to win this title, in Paris in 1990.

Johnson limped round in 71 for the second successive day, despite a badly bruised left

leg, the legacy of an exuberant leap to celebrate one of England's four goals against Holland a couple of weeks ago.

Laura Davies, the world No.2, was another limper — she had a blister on her left heel — but after dropping shots at the 3rd and 4th holes, she came home in 31, five under par, with birdies at the 10th, 11th, 12th, 15th and 18th. In the conditions, even Davies could not reach the last hole, a par five of 465 yards. In two. Being Davies, she tried, with a two-iron from a bad lie, but

came up 80 yards short. However, she pitched to 15 feet and sank the putt for a round of 69 and a total of 145, in the top ten.

Sadly, the best round of a dismal day, a 68 returned by Karen Lunne, the former Woburn Women's British Open champion from Sydney, was rendered null and void. Lunne signed her card and left the recording area before it was discovered that she and Shani Waugh, her partner, had marked the wrong scorecards. Lunne's score was recorded on Waugh's card and vice versa.

Lunne was disqualified under Rule 6-6d for signing for a score lower than she had actually taken — Waugh had three birdies in the first five holes and Lunne did not. Waugh, who shot 72, was saved because she had not left the recording area and her card was amended with the correct name, in accordance with Decision 6-6d/4.

SECOND-ROUND LEADERS (69 and he unless stated)

136: H Alfredsson (Swe) 68, 70, L Neumann (Swe) 68, 70, 140: L Hackney 70, 70, 141: A Sorenstam (Swe) 71, 70, R Oum (Don) 69, 72, 142: J Johnson 71, 71, 143: C H Koch (Swe) 71, 72, N Fink (Aust) 71, 72, 144: L Davies 70, 69, A Sorenstam (Swe) 74, 71, T Fiebert (Sp) 75, 72, S Gordon 71, 74, 145: V Mackay (Fr) 70, 75, S Sorenstam 70, 72, A Koppel (Aus) 74, 72, 147: J Mackay 70, 71, P O'Malley 70, 72, L Neumann 70, 74, 148: K Waugh (Sp) 70, 69, 149: L Lambert (Aus) 74, 72, S Coorens 72, 72, M de Lorenzi (Fr) 75, 72, A Nicholas 75, 73.

SATURDAY JULY 6 1996

Escape for Atherton after India set follow-on target of 322 in third Test

England left long haul to safety

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of five): England, with all first-innings wickets standing, are 489 runs behind India

ENGLAND now know what must be done, and it may not be pretty to watch. The second-highest total ever made in this country by India has left this final Cornhill Test with limited directions to turn. On a serene surface, much the likeliest outcome is the draw that would be sufficient to protect and secure England's 1-0 lead in the series.

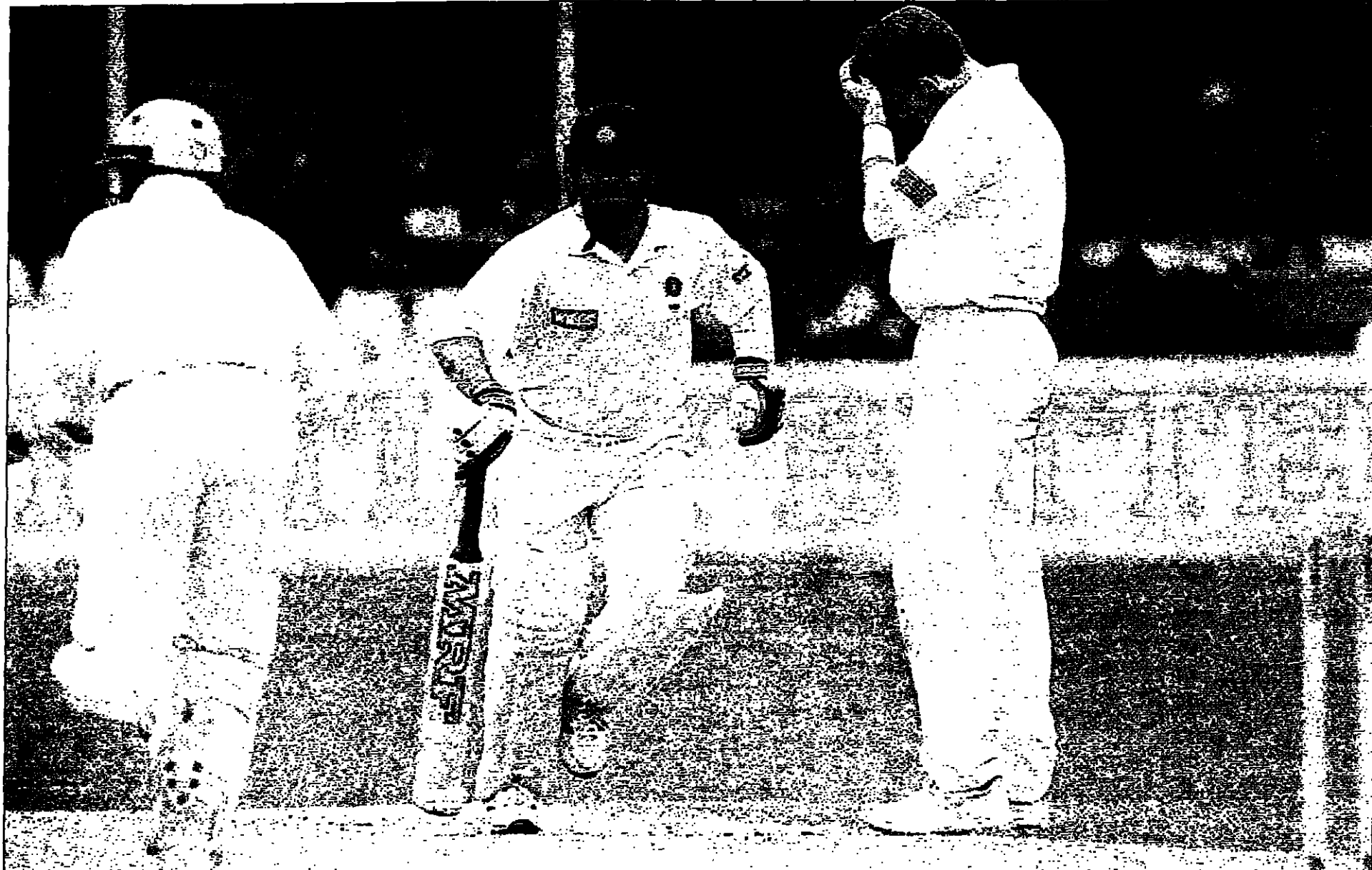
The prospect of stalemate hardened last evening as England saw out a tricky 11 overs without loss. It was, however, a near thing, for Michael Atherton, who had dropped Sachin Tendulkar before he scored and suffered anguish as he went on to 177, was now himself put down when on nought. The chance, off the excellent Jagavallu Srinath, flew to third slip and Rahul Dravid failed to get a hand on it. Atherton will now look to make him pay and so help make this series safe.

Michael Henderson 46
Photograph 46
Mustang memories 46
Wells overflows 46

The cricket, yesterday, was largely too predictable, too measured to absorb or invigorate. There was a barometer within the crowd, which resorted to distracted chanting and inane conduct, and another in the movements of Raymond Illingworth, who wandered the ground restlessly, confessing he was finding it hard to settle and watch such an uneven contest between bat and ball.

England did not bowl badly — in general, their line was better than on the first day and their perseverance was admirable — but after a first hour in which the new ball swung under heavy cloud cover, nothing in the pitch or atmosphere encouraged them. Batting became altogether too straightforward. There is a paradox here. When the first Test ended early on the fourth day, the Edgbaston pitch quite properly stood condemned, for nobody wants to see a match in which batting is reduced to a lottery.

It is equally true, however, that nobody wants to see a game in which the pitch offers so little that bowling becomes an exercise in futility. There has to be a balance and none of the pitches used for this series have provided it. India were entitled to use this second day to consolidate a promising position. Perhaps they overdid the caution; cer-



Cork reflects on the hardships of a bowler's life on such a pitch as Tendulkar, centre, and Manjrekar push India's score toward 500 at Trent Bridge yesterday

SCOREBOARD FROM TRENT BRIDGE

INDIA won last	
INDIA: First Innings	323 (380 mins, 111 overs)
V Ramesh c Russell b Cork	4 (13 min, 7 balls)
IN R Mongia c Russell b Lewis	9 (38 min, 24 balls, 1 hour)
S C Ganguly c Hussain b Mullaney	136 (361 min, 268 balls, 2 hours, 17 mins)
S R Tendulkar c Patel b Eastham	177 (462 min, 360 balls, 2 hours)
S V Manjrekar c Hick b Patel	53 (217 min, 144 balls, 1 hr, 57 mins)
*M Azharuddin c Patel b Lewis	5 (17 min, 11 balls)
R Dravid c Russell b Eastham	84 (170 min, 149 balls, 2 hours, 10 mins)
A Kumble bow b Mullaney	0 (4 min, 6 balls)
J Srinath c Cork b Lewis	1 (7 min, 9 balls)
B K V Prasad run out (Stewart)	13 (79 min, 32 balls)
S L V Raju not out	1 (10 min, 8 balls)
Extras (b 6, lb 12, w 7, nb 13)	38
Total (167 overs, 680 min)	621

more luck. England might have taken a couple more wickets by lunch.

Cork plainly felt aggrieved at the rejection of leg-before appeals against both batsmen. K. T. Francis, the imperturbable umpire from Sri Lanka, was vindicated on each occasion, but it cannot possibly be

healthy to have such contentious moments instantly replayed on the giant video screen. Not only can it agitate the crowd and bring renewed posturing from the more theatrical players, of whom Cork is most certainly one, it also adds to the strain of umpiring. Tendulkar, however, moved

serenely onwards, accelerating again as he reached 150 with his 21st four after seven hours in the middle. There was a brief exhibition of that wondrous off-drive, played with the weight on the back foot and the balance perfect, and as the second session began he square-cut Eastham

for four despite a sweeper being stationed no more than ten yards from where the ball crossed the ropes.

Yet he was out to a misjudgement, pulling at a short ball too wide of off-stump to permit control of the stroke. It looped to mid-on, Patel's catch giving Eastham a maiden Test wicket, after which he was correctly withdrawn by Atherton in order to put a prepared plan into operation against Azharuddin. The India captain has had a wretched series and it was not about to improve. Atherton positioned Patel under the helmet at short-leg and he reacted sharply as Azharuddin's feet stuck on the crease, jabbed at a rising ball from Lewis. It was a well-conceived, well-worked dismissal for which the coach, David Lloyd, deserves some credit.

Manjrekar and Dravid added an untroubled 61 for the sixth wicket before England took three wickets for seven. Still, they were not quite through and Dravid skilfully

farmed the strike while putting on 60 for the ninth wicket with Prasad. It was a partnership that required a run-out to end it, though why umpire Sharp needed the help of the third umpire to confirm that Stewart's underarm throw had beaten Prasad home by fully a yard was difficult to comprehend. The virtue of the system will be diminished if umpires hide behind its convenience.

Dravid had batted with enterprise for three hours, an innings all the more laudable for being sacrificed, in sight of a maiden century, in the cause of his side. India needed a breakthrough before the close; the irony is that Dravid himself should have supplied it.

No women rule keeps MCC from jackpot in lottery

BY JOHN GOODBODY

MCC has had an application for National Lottery funds turned down, partly because the world's most famous cricket club refuses to admit women as members. The Sports Council has refused to help both Lord's and the Oval in their bids to redevelop their grounds for the 1999 World Cup because it believes that neither scheme "represented clear value for money in return for significant lottery investment".

MCC asked for £4.9 million towards a 4,000-seat replacement for the Grand Stand costing £12.9 million, while Surrey asked for £13.75 million towards a £29.5 million project at the Oval. Surrey does admit women as members.

Derek Casey, the chief executive of the Sports Council, yesterday emphasised that it had a clear policy of not agreeing to help applications for lottery funding for organisations which operate restrictions in membership.

"Currently there is no overall strategy for cricket at county or national level — the English Cricket Board is yet to be established — and if public money is to be invested in cricket through the Lottery Sports Fund, certain fundamental issues have to be addressed by both the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) and the clubs," he said.

"Community benefit and open membership are fundamental criteria for lottery funding, as is value for money. Like all cricket supporters, we are looking forward to the 1999 World Cup and we want the best facilities for the matches."

The Council will now work with the TCCB and the clubs to see if the applications can be changed to make them fit Lottery criteria. They have jointly set up a four-month study to examine the future uses and needs of leading cricket facilities in England, although the aim of the Lottery is primarily to encourage people to play rather than to watch sport.

In its first 15 months of operation, the Lottery has already provided £10.4 million of support to local community cricket schemes. Its total spending to all sports in the United Kingdom is £248 million.

Washington states his case with tenacity

BY DAVID MILLER

MALIBU WASHINGTON, who was born on Long Island and is now resident in Florida, yesterday played two of the best sets of a career spanning 21 grand-slam events. Plagued by rain interruptions, he retained the chance to become Wimbledon's first black men's singles finalist since the late Arthur Ashe won the title in 1975.

Halted for the second time just after 3pm and with play finally abandoned nearly five hours later, Washington stands at two sets all with Todd Martin, his American Davis Cup colleague, after two hours and 44 minutes of play. Twice a set behind, Washington, ranked twentieth in the world, had summoned all his experience and a fine variation of shots to resist the powerful serving of the taller Martin, the No 13 seed, who had conquered Tim Henman in the quarter-final.

In the first Wimbledon men's semi-finals with three unseeded players — including Jason Stoltenberg and Richard Krajicek in the match to follow — since Roger Taylor, Wilhelm Bungert and Nikkili Pili in 1967, Washington had refused to be over-awed. The number of statistics amassing from this year's fall of fifteen seeded players has matched the number of rain breaks.

This was Washington's seventh consecutive Wimbledon, never having previously passed the second round. He has reached eight tournament finals, sufficient to earn prize-money in excess of £1.5 million, though his previous best grand slam performance was the Australian Open quarter-final in 1994. To arrive at this stage of a highly unusual

Wimbledon, he had successfully defeated Fromberg, of Australia, Enqvist, of Sweden, seeded ninth, Ullrich, of the Czech Republic, Haarhuis, of Holland, and Radulescu, the Romanian-German.

Wimbledon is confronted with a contradictory public perception of its respective singles finals. The women's tournament has produced few, if any, exceptional matches, yet now has a final of intense rivalry between two famous players of the highest calibre: Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the respective first and fourth seeds, in a repeat of a final last year. Graf, with a night's rest

after surrendering six consecutive games the previous evening to become set all with Kimiko Date, the first woman semi-finalist from Japan, was able to regroup her game

Graf on brink	50
Lee's ambition	50
Results	50
Simon Barnes	51

yesterday morning. Her touch returned in taking the final set 6-3 to open the way for a twentieth grand slam title.

The men's final, on the other hand, will be between players with whom the public is predominantly unfamiliar; highly competitive though all four of them are. Inevitably, there is to be a new name on the trophy, yet the reputations of all are a closed book in social tennis conversation.

Such is the depth of the men's game compared with the women's that seeded players are always on the brink of elimination. But because some usually survive, the abilities of those outside the top 16 of the ranking list — automatically seeded everywhere but at Wimbledon — rarely penetrate as far as the last four and

gain the headlines and public awareness. Yet in 1996 there have already been eight unseeded winners on the ATP tour.

Martin, ranked No 18 in the world, and with a record of five career titles, including Sydney this year, and nine other finals, including the 1994 Australian Open, has amassed £2.5 million in prize-money with his service power and return of serve. Yet at times yesterday, Washington revealed a breadth that made the match more than a matter of serve and volley.

Because the era of open professionalism has fostered the percentage game, with the avoidance of extravagance and risk, colour and character has tended to be eliminated. Yet those who may yearn for the wizardry of, say, McEnroe or Laver, tend to overlook how repetitive was the serve-and-volley era of the Sixties, with players such as Emerson, Stolle and Newcombe.

When Martin broke Washington's service for the second time, on his opponent's errors, to take the first set 7-5, it seemed that the man with the bigger reputation was on his way. Washington had other ideas.

With three scintillating backhands and the help on game point of a double fault, he broke to lead 3-2, thereafter holding service to level the match 6-4. Martin took the third set tie-break after Washington had saved four set points. Rain caused a halt for half an hour.

Back they came and, with a superb cross-court forehand, Washington broke to lead 4-2 and, with finer judgment of length, again levelled the match with a superb ace wide of the backhand on set point. All is to play for.



Martin twice held the upper hand in the semi-final against Washington yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

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TV giant secures Olympics scoop from rundown bar

FROM BOB GRAHAM IN ATLANTA

A TINY bar overlooking the Olympic Stadium is set to become the world's best-known watering hole over the next five weeks — and all because of the bitter rivalry between two TV giants.

Paul's Bar is little larger than a garden shed, but it is to be home to CNN for what is described as "exclusive Olympic coverage". The worldwide broadcasting network — smarting over the loss of the coverage of the Games — has pulled off a coup by arranging live coverage of events in the stadium from the roof of the bar.

A specially constructed platform 20ft above Paul's Bar will have an uninterrupted view of the stadium. CNN's audacity has angered their American rivals, NBC, who paid nearly \$500 million (£330 million) for the rights to cover the Games in Atlanta, where CNN has its headquarters.

But furious NBC chiefs will be unable to block the CNN cameras which are to broadcast live news events to 197 countries. The coup was made possible by a special deal between CNN and Atlanta businessman Paul D'Agness, owner of the bar.

Mr D'Agness bought the

bar for \$60,000 two years ago after work began on the Olympic Stadium. He said: "The bar was very rundown, but it was in a great location — directly overlooking the site of the new stadium."

The 33-year-old bar owner added: "My initial reason for buying the place was to renovate it and turn it into a lively bar close by the stadium. I knew that the Olympics would be attracting large numbers of people and hoped I could cash in on the popularity."

Mr D'Agness had not bargained on the TV war. It was less than four months ago that CNN — desperate to find good camera points outside the stadium — spotted the potential of Paul's Bar. Its elevation — 100ft above the stadium walls — provided a vantage point. A surveyor was brought in and it was agreed that a platform sited 20ft above the bar's single-storey roof would give a view of virtually the entire stadium.

Mr D'Agness said: "We decided to go for it and agreed a deal with CNN using the roof for live broadcasts for no charge, as long as they always announce the deadline that they were broadcasting live from the roof of Paul's Bar

overlooking the stadium. It was an opportunity to get free worldwide publicity the like of which money could not buy."

The bar-owner's luck improved when the site for the Olympic flame was placed within a shot-put of his front door. "It provided a perfect backdrop for the live CNN broadcasts," Mr D'Agness said. "We have arranged that the platform will be used as a special outside studio where gold medalists will be brought for interviews."

He has spent nearly \$150,000 on renovating the bar and hiring 60 people to serve drinks and food during the 17 days of the Games. He said: "We have calculated we will be getting anywhere between 250,000 and 300,000 people in the area of the stadium every day for the duration of the Games."

Mr D'Agness reckons his profits will top \$1 million. "Let the Games begin," he said. "It's not the taking part that counts, it's the counting of the profits."

□ New York: Two athletes from Malawi, one of the smallest and least affluent teams in the Games, have been bought new gym shoes by residents of a Mississippi town (Quentin Letts writes).

The people of Hattiesburg, a town of old Southern virtues and hospitality, took pity on the Malawi marathon runners when they noticed that their kit was decidedly tatty.

John Mwathiwa and Henry Moyo, long-distance runners, arrived in Hattiesburg for pre-Olympics training ten days ago with worn shoes, shiny trousers and threadbare luggage. Almost at once they were adopted by the town. A local department store, Gayfers, presented them with gym bags and kit.

Local housewives have offered to feed the slim-built men for free, perhaps not realising that there are better preparations for Olympic marathon running than double helpings of deep-fried catfish and sticky iced tea.

Running for their lives, *Magazine*, page 28



Abdala Bucaram, who denounced his election opponent as "the Antichrist"

Madman of Ecuador in battle with 'Antichrist'

BY DAVID ADAMS

IF ECUADOR'S election tomorrow is won by 44-year-old Abdala Bucaram, the country's next President will be, by his own admission, a madman.

But Señor Bucaram, a fiery populist whose nickname is "El Loco", says: "Crazy people speak from the heart and see with their soul what others do not see." Besides, he told one rally, his opponent is "the Antichrist".

The latest opinion polls show Señor Bucaram running neck and neck with a conservative lawyer, Jaime Nebot Saadi. Both men are of Lebanese immigrant stock, but that is where the similarities end.

Señor Bucaram is an avid sportsman who competed as a hurdler in the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. His campaign speeches are peppered with insults: he accused one opponent of having "watery sperm". At rallies he is accompanied by a Uruguayan rock band and warms up the crowd by singing *Jailhouse Rock* in Spanish.

Señor Nebot, on the other hand, relies less on rhetoric and has the backing of wealthy farmers, industrialists and bankers. That has not stopped some of his supporters from firing a few salvos at Señor Bucaram. One of Señor Nebot's followers caused a storm when he said

"El Loco" was the candidate of "pimps, prostitutes and marijuana users".

A Nebot television advertisement showed a woman who says Señor Bucaram once dropped his trousers in front of her.

Critics recall Señor Bucaram's days as Mayor of the port of Guayaquil, when he told poor voters he sympathised with their desire to scratch every Mercedes in sight. The country's weak economy could be the deciding factor, with Señor Bucaram expected to win over poor voters. "With me, we will either sink or be saved, but we will not stay the same," he tells rallies.

Relieved Clinton finds Yeltsin in mood for jokes

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON had a cheery chat about the joys of re-election with President Yeltsin, his Russian counterpart, yesterday, but did not ask him about his health "because he sounded so good".

The pair talked by telephone for about 25 minutes, mostly joking about politics. Mr Clinton said Mr Yeltsin had enjoyed a remarkable turnaround from last January when most Russians said they would not vote for him.

"He sort of took the 'Comeback Kid' label away from me," Mr Clinton told reporters, using the nickname he was given during his own 1992 political renaissance after allegations of adultery levelled at him by Jennifer Flowers.

Mr Clinton told Mr Yeltsin that he was impressed by the way he had fought back to a great victory and said it was a tribute to his tenacity, vision and courage. Mr Yeltsin returned the compliments and wished Mr Clinton luck in the American presidential election in November.

Mr Clinton was immensely relieved by Mr Yeltsin's victory. Quite apart from preferring him to the Communists, he was anxious to be spared a

damaging election-year argument over "Who lost Russia?" An early warning that Mr Clinton would be blamed for a Yeltsin defeat was sounded last week by Bob Dole, his Republican challenger, who accused the President of misguidedly romanticising US-Russian relations and turning a blind eye to Russian breaches of arms-control agreements

and to signals that Communist forces were building up new strength.

Mr Yeltsin's success has blunted that line of reasoning, and Mr Dole meekly joined the chorus of Americans offering congratulations, although with the qualification that democracy was not built on any one individual or even on one election.

Although Mr Clinton said that Mr Yeltsin sounded animated and well, a senior White House official who monitored the conversation said: "I don't think his voice is all the way back. Generally, he has a very robust voice when he's at his best."

Russian officials and Mrs Yeltsin have said the Russian President has been recovering from a cold, but his stilted and wooden television appearances before the election and on polling day were studied by Washington officials for signs of a recurrence of heart disease. During yesterday's call Mr Yeltsin admitted to fatigue from the campaign and said he was looking forward to taking a holiday after his inauguration on August 9.

There are no plans for another Yeltsin-Clinton summit, but the two men agreed that Vice-President Al Gore and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, would meet in Moscow at the end of next week to discuss US-Russian issues.

In Moscow yesterday, Mr Chernomyrdin said that Mr Yeltsin will announce his new Government in the next few days.

Tasmanian faces total of 35 murder charges

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THIRTY-FOUR more murder charges were laid yesterday against the man accused of Australia's worst peacetime shooting massacre. Over two days in April in Port Arthur, Tasmania, 35 people were killed and 18 wounded.

Martin Bryant, 29, faced 69 new charges in all. They

included 19 counts of attempted murder, nine of grievous bodily harm, five of aggravated assault and two of arson.

Bryant, of Hobart, is still recovering from burns he suffered before his arrest. On April 30 he was charged with murdering Kate Elizabeth Scott, 21, of Western Australia. A wooden cross bearing the victims' names has been set up on Port Arthur's foreshore.



Paul D'Agness outside the bar which he expects to make him a fortune in the 17 days of the Olympics

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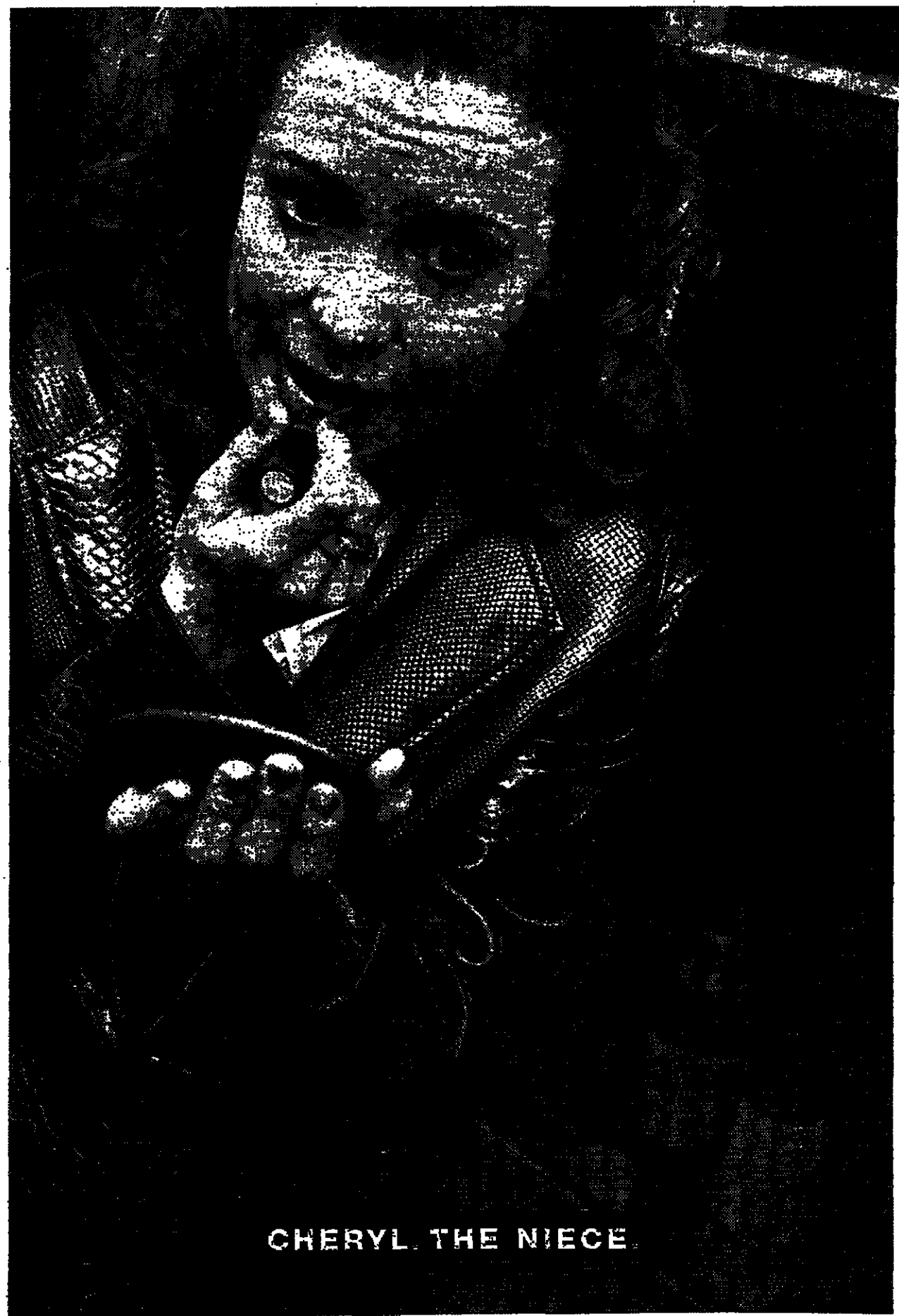
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Closed minds prevail on 'open' frontier



James Pringle, beginning a series of reports from the Sino-Russian border, finds official paranoia remains in Tongjiang despite burgeoning trade

NUCLEAR war almost began in 1969 here in northern Manchuria, and for 30 years the Sino-Soviet border in the Far East was the world's most dangerous and sensitive frontier, with huge communist armies facing each other across the rivers that divide them.

But with the collapse of Soviet communism and free-market reforms in China, tensions are now slowly easing and cross-border trade is growing. The dark, grey-metallic Amur River at Tongjiang has little to tempt the traveller to linger on its muddy banks. It seems as devoid of character as the grimy island half a mile offshore that belongs to Russia and is called No Name by the Chinese. Viewed through binoculars, the beach fronting a copse of birch trees is bleak and empty. Beyond, on the Russian bank, there are few settlements: for past fear of attack, these were built deeper inside Siberia. "We think it is uninhabited," says Xue Bao Yi, Communist party vice-secretary of Tongjiang, standing in suit and tie, and sporting a gold watch with a diamond-studded rim, looking out at No Name island. When a reporter raises a camera to take a picture of a moored Chinese patrol boat, the crew yell and a security man puts a hand across the lens.

There is no reason why the area should have a carefree atmosphere. Both this vast river, which was once explored by marauding Cossacks, and its tributary, the

Ussuri, which form the Sino-Russian border in Siberia and the Russian Far East, have been the barrier since the late 1950s that kept the feuding giants apart — and an occasional battleground.

In 1969, on Damanski Island (Zhenbao in Chinese) in the Ussuri, there was a fight between Chinese and Russian troops that started with fists, graduated to small arms, escalated to tank and artillery fire — and might have ended with a nuclear war had not Richard Nixon warned Leonid Brezhnev that the US "would not remain indifferent" to a Soviet attack on China. Next to the Cuban missile crisis, many observers believe, this was the moment that the world came closest to nuclear war.

Brezhnev believed Chinese armies were poised to invade from Manchuria, as China's cold north-eastern provinces were formerly called.

Mao Tse-tung, expecting a Soviet nuclear strike, ordered Chinese in Harbin, capital of China's north-eastern province of Heilongjiang, and in Peking itself, to "dig deep tunnels and store grain everywhere".

"Both sides were preparing for war, and boats sped on collision courses along the same line of navigation," said a retired fishing boat captain, You Yu Fa, 61, of the tiny Hezhen minority near here. "The Russians had cannon but Chairman Mao sent us rifles and machineguns. It was very tense but we were not afraid. We were ready for them."

Since Mikhail Gorbachev



State secret: a view of Tongjiang's main street that edgy Chinese authorities wanted to hide. The area was once forbidden to Westerners

helped to reduce border tensions in the late 1980s, river navigation has resumed, though slowly, and in places there are busy trading markets. Negotiators are now demarcating this remote and sensitive border which is still in dispute in some areas.

There still remains a kind of unease here, particularly in this drab industrial town of 50,000 people to which the Foreign Ministry brought a group of correspondents for a glimpse of a once-forbidden frontier. It is a sensitive area because, as on the Russian side, there are believed to be large labour camps in northern Heilongjiang, and Peking's current "Strike Hard" campaign to combat crime and corruption is in full swing with a spate of executions that has reached even this remote spot.

Three years ago, large Chinese gangs attacked trains not

just on the Chinese side but on the Trans-Siberian Railway that runs parallel to the border in Moscow's Jewish autonomous region that faces Tongjiang. In winter, the Amur is frozen 3ft thick and trucks can easily cross. But supposedly these mafia gangs had been smashed earlier. Now, local Tongjiang officials entertain correspondents to a series of banquets, serving caviar from Amur sturgeon and raising glasses of grain liquor and speaking of how "Tongjiang is open for business" and is looking for Western investment. Joint ventures with Russia, after all, are limited in scope, given the parlous economy there. Mr

Xue speaks of how "in a very short time we have come to know one another very well and established a relationship that will endure". There is a seemingly endless concert in a hotel disco and hostesses are called into the service of the State and the party to invite the visitors to dance. It is exhausting — and perhaps meant to be.

For, despite protestations of friendship and openness, when I and another correspondent tried to leave our hotel at 10.30pm to take a stroll down Tongjiang's darkened main street, security men quickly stepped in to order us back. When we persisted, several of these bulky types, some in

Bulky men pushed us back inside the hotel's lobby

uniform and some in civilian clothes, roughly pushed us back inside the lobby of the hotel and made it clear greater force would be used to stop us walking in the town that was now "open for business".

Asked if we were being detained in the hotel, we were told this was not the case. "Tongjiang port is open but the streets are closed to foreigners," was the first explanation. Then came a second: "Members of this kind of group cannot go out at night as individuals." Nor was the situation much better next morning when snooping security men followed other reporters into nearby small shops, an intimidating presence for ordinary Chinese here who had little incentive to chat.

Test treaty: President Jiang Zemin of China called for the rapid conclusion of a global nuclear test ban treaty and

said Peking wanted a deal struck by the end of this year. "China always stands for complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and endorses a comprehensive test ban," Mr Jiang told Kazakhstan's parliament during a three-day state visit.

"China is ready to join other countries in working for the conclusion within this year of a fair, reasonable and verifiable treaty with universal adherence and unlimited duration," he said to warm applause. His conciliatory remarks carried extra weight in a country which staged nearly 500 nuclear blasts under Soviet rule, only to abandon nuclear weapons after independence in 1991. Kazakhstan also borders China's restive Xinjiang province, where continued testing at the Lop Nor range has drawn international condemnation. (Reuters)

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Patten critic says 'lame duck' rule bad for business

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

ONE of Peking's main supporters in Hong Kong and an implacable critic of Chris Patten, the Governor, yesterday described the colonial Government as a "caretaker" and accused Mr Patten of being "ineffective".

James Tien, speaking to the Foreign Correspondents' Club, said that "because right now we do not have a decision-maker, it certainly does not look good for investment and business opportunities over the next year". He agreed with a questioner that the administration, which passes sovereignty to China on July 1, 1997, was a "lame duck".

One of Mr Tien's closest allies, Henry Tang, speaking on the same programme, admitted people in Hong Kong were uneasy about the future because "you are handing [Hong Kong] over to a system where they [China] have no previous history of running a place so vastly different". Mr Tang said that until

June 30, 1997, "China has a right to oversee our interests in the name of transition, but suddenly on July 1, 1997, we're going to tell the Chinese to take a walk whenever there are issues that we consider our own".

Mr Tien is the chairman of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Legislative Council, and was appointed by Peking last year to the 150-member Preparatory Committee that is establishing Hong Kong's post-1997 government.

Last week, at an assembly of businessmen and lawyers, Mr Tien declared Hong Kong was not ready for democracy, equal opportunity laws or strict environmental controls.

Opinion polls here register little confidence in the Preparatory Committee to which Mr Tien belongs, giving far more, though dwindling, support to Mr Patten.

Communist legacy, page 22

Glitterati party at star's Manila prison nuptials

Manila: Five Philippines senators and dozens of other celebrities went to prison yesterday — not as inmates but as guests at the wedding of one of the country's most popular film stars. Robin Padilla is serving a sentence of 17-21 years for weapons possession. His marriage in prison to

Liz Sison, his girlfriend, was proclaimed the country's "wedding of the year" by the press. The couple's three daughters served as flower girls. Fifteen caterers and waiters served the 133 guests, including diplomats from several nations, as 12 musicians entertained them. (AP)

How to survive divorce

If you're contemplating divorce, you'll want everything to be sorted out as quickly and economically as possible, particularly if children are involved. You'll need clear, practical advice — and that's what you'll find in *The Which? Guide to Divorce*. Covering all the legal and financial aspects of divorce, it explains how to make use of mediation before starting proceedings, and examines the sequence of events during the process, from deciding what will happen to the family home, to financial arrangements after divorce. There's a chapter on the Child Support Agency, giving figures for calculating child maintenance payable by parents, and advice on how to make an appeal. The book also looks at

including the abolition of "quickie" divorces • new legislation concerning the division of pensions in divorce settlements • keeping divorce costs down. Covering law and practice in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, *The Which? Guide to Divorce* is essential reading for those considering or undergoing divorce proceedings, and it costs just £10.99 (P&P FREE). To order, send your name and address, the book title and your payment (cheque made payable to Which? Ltd or credit card number with expiry date) to: Which?, PO Box 89, Dept SP66, Hertford, SG14 1TB. Orders are normally despatched within 14 days of receipt. Full refund if not satisfied.

Socialists embarrassed by capitalist crusader who paid bribes, then told all

Mayor raises Costa storm

BEHIND Marbella's white-washed walls and wealth, its sparkling streets (picked clean of dirt and delinquents by squads working round the clock), and its reputation as a resort for peseta-packed Arabs, stands a rough, bull-necked Spanish institution. His name is Jesús Gil y Gil.

Señor Gil is Marbella's Mayor and the most powerful man on the Costa del Sol. Since the Costa attracts more tourists per year than the rest of mainland Spain put together, he is one of King Juan Carlos's most significant subjects. Add to that his ownership of Atlético de Madrid (the football club which won this year's league), his hatred of the press, and the suits pending against him in the courts, and one has the outline of a man who arouses passions like few others.

For every Spaniard who hates Señor Gil — and there are many of them — there is probably another who will go to

MARBELLA FILE
by TUNKU
VARADARAJAN



the trenches for him. He is adored in Marbella, which he has run brilliantly since 1991, and if his enemies regard him as an officious bully, his supporters see him as an Iberian cross between a Wild West sheriff, a crusader for capitalism and Father Christmas.

Señor Gil's greatest virtue, however, is his ability to enliven Spanish life (which, contrary to the Carmen-and-sangria myths in Britain, can be intensely stuffy and pompous). Hardly a week passes without reports of some "Gil affair" or other. In the latest storm last week, Señor Gil has accused members of the Socialist

regional government of taking nearly £500,000 in bribes in June 1996, for the granting of building permission in Marbella.

But behold the panache of the man. Who was it who paid the bribe and who was it who wished to build? By his own impudent admission, it was Señor Gil himself. Marbella's Mayor cannot be prosecuted for suborning an official because of a new statute of limitations for certain money-related offences.

Instead, the Spanish Socialist Party, already reeling unsteadily in opposition, has a new embarrassment to cope with. Wags are already saying that the Socialists are facing their worst nightmare in "Gil and Gal" — the latter being the anti-Eta death squads which the Socialists ran when in power.

Señor Gil does not like Communists, Socialists, and anyone else who crosses him. His stock phrase, when enraged, is *hijo de puta*, or "son of a bitch".

Earlier this year he punched a fellow football club boss — of the Galician club Santiago de Compostela — for saying on the radio that the people of Marbella were "stupid for voting for that man Gil". The incident, which occurred in public, shocked Spain, but Señor Gil was unrepentant. "I was only doing my duty," he said later. "He should have shown more respect for the people of Marbella."



Jesús Gil y Gil: a talent for amusing and shocking his fellow Spaniards

Life is a beach for Yeltsin's bikini voters

EVER since the municipality of Marbella decided to open a tourist office in Moscow in 1994 — "to attract members of the incipient capitalist society", as it was then explained — the Costa del Sol has counted among its residents hundreds of pale-skinned men and women with Slavic cheekbones and Russian accents.

Los rusos were out in force on Wednesday, the day of the second round of their country's presidential poll, voting with verve at the "electoral college" in a Torremolinos hotel.

It was a hot morning and several arrived to cast their ballots in bikinis or briefs. Most voted for Boris Yeltsin, although some could not disguise their support for Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the right-wing nationalist.

One couple, in identical Viva España T-shirts and tanga-style bottoms, said with a smile that "Señor Gil y Gil [Marbella's Mayor] would make a great President for Russia".

The Russians are a popular presence on the Costa del Sol, although many resent the mafia stereotyping that dogs them in the Spanish press.

The locals, however, could not care less about that. "We love them," said a barman in Marbella. "The men, they like to drink, and the ladies, they are so friendly."

Banking on a super-seller

READING matter is distinctly scarce on the Costa del Sol, and holidaymakers are advised to come forearmed.

Marbella and Estepona have no proper bookshops, though Fuengirola has secondhand establishments where browsers can pick up tattered copies of James Hadley Chase and Cortázar, and Spain's own Barbara Cartland.

But for most Spaniards on the beach this year there is only one book to take, a non-fiction "thriller" called *Vendetta*. At 580 pages, it should keep most readers busy for a fortnight. In it the author, Ernesto Ekáizer, lays bare the audacious culture of Spain's dodgy super-bankers of the 1980s. Out this week, it is moving well, as they say in the trade.

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Madrid pressed to reinstate sacked state TV journalist

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

PRESSURE is mounting on the Spanish Government to reconsider its recent sacking of a senior journalist on the state-owned RTVE network.

José Antonio Martínez Soler, Spanish television's New York correspondent, attributes his dismissal to a provocative pre-election interview in February with José María Aznar, now the Prime Minister but then the opposition leader.

Señor Martínez, arguing that his dismissal is "an anti-constitutional political reprisal", scoffs at the official reason given, that RTVE's considerable debts needed "urgent rationalisation and a pruning of personnel".

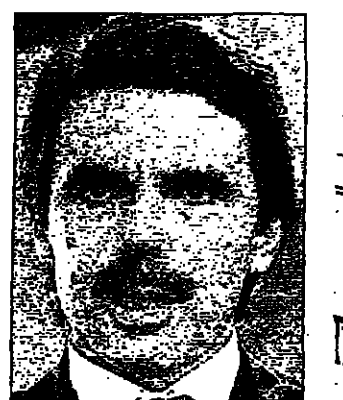
The journalist has secured an unlikely ally in the conservative daily ABC, more usually an enthusiastic Aznar government supporter. In an editorial last week, the newspaper called for the reinstatement of Señor Martínez, declaring that "no one should be discriminated against in Spain for his political ideas".

Many observers, while critical of the sacking, have recalled that the Socialists inflicted on RTVE "a night of the long knives" when they

first came to power in 1982. By comparison, the present Government has been a model of restraint.

Señor Martínez has also written to King Juan Carlos, putting his case to the Spanish monarch — a move that has earned him the criticism of some fellow journalists.

In a letter published yesterday in Madrid's *El Mundo*, Santiago López Castiella, a television news director sacked in a wide-ranging purge by the Socialist Government in 1983, chided him for losing his sense of proportion.



Aznar: provoked by a pre-poll interview

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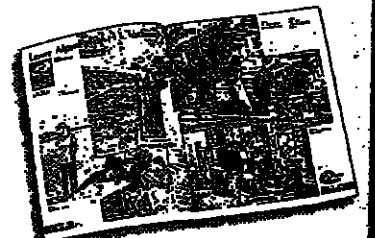
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■ BASE NOTES

Butler in the news: Lloyd Webber's revised *By Jeeves* books its passage to America

One day I shall make my fortune by inventing a board game called *Darling! How Could You?*. Players would rise or fall in a fictitious showbiz world by tackling a series of classic career dilemmas. For instance: you are Britain's most glamorous leading man, with a stunning girlfriend, millions of adoring fans and the world's top directors offering you choice roles. Do you a) do everything you can to hang on to this enviable collection; or b) engage in a momentary but momentous dalliance with a lady of easy virtue in a public street?

"Darling! How could you?" all the other players would shriek, as the correct answer is revealed and you collect your forfeit card ("Go directly to jail. Do not pass *Helio!* Do not collect £20 million"). But some other dilemmas would be much less clear-cut.

Here's one that occurred to me this week. You are executive director of the National Theatre, the top woman administrator in all of London. Trevor Nunn has

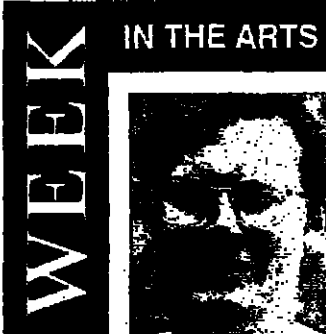
Time to grasp nettles in the Garden

just been appointed as artistic director. Do you a) look forward to years of sorting out the jolly japes that seem to occur whenever Twinkling Trev comes into close proximity with a subsidised theatre company; or b) accept the job of running Covent Garden, that Titanic among opera houses.

You have to admit, it's a toughie. But we know now what choice Genista McIntosh has made. She has elected to preside over Britain's most bitterly-resented building site: the Royal Opera House development. She must charm about £100 million out of Covent Garden's super-rich patrons to pay for the damn thing. She must keep the opera and ballet in business for two years without a real home. And she must ensure that swarms of builders, surveyors and architects conclude their arcane manoeuvres sometime before

she picks up her old-age pension. But that's the easy bit. The hard part comes when Covent Garden's new chief executive asks herself some basic questions. Like, what is the Royal Opera House for? Is a lottery award of £78 million, plus annual subsidy of £20 million and rising, handed out simply to underwrite the pleasures of people who can already afford £80, £100 or £150 tickets? Is Covent Garden ever going to grow up and become a real national institution?

The answer is obvious, at least to you and me. Somehow, Covent Garden must get its product on show to far more people from a far wider social range. Not to do so, after pocketing so much public cash, would be immoral. When the theatre reopens in 1999 a top ticket price of £60 (roughly comparable with West End musicals) will be essential. Every piece of plan-



RICHARD MORRISON

ning — repertoire, casting, pay structures, commercial letting, sponsorship — must now be dictated by that figure.

But bringing down ticket prices isn't enough. If Covent Garden is to break through into popular esteem, its productions must appear on television. Not once a year (if you are lucky), but every month. McIntosh knows that; her predecessor, Jeremy Isaacs, knew it (of course he did; he was Mr Cultured Face of Television); and so did his predecessor.

So why hasn't it happened? Well, here I must stress left-wing chums ... not that I have many left. Covent Garden wimpishly tolerates the greatest farrago of restrictive working practices since the "heyday" of Fleet Street. Three unions — Bectu, Equity and the Musicians — control everything that breathes. Their rulebooks are as thick as bricks and twice as inflexible. And many of the rules are a load of old kobbe: more Spanish practices than *Carmen*; and as apt for modern theatres as a sackbut in Tosca.

The greatest obstacles are reserved for those who naively offer to broadcast productions. A television company can write off £300,000 in "extra payments" to union members before it can think of broadcasting a *Traviata*. And that's just for the UK rights.

This must change. Either Covent Garden must enter into a once-and-for-all negotiation to "buy out" the TV rights of its staff. Or the unions must be bypassed, and an orchestra, chorus and ballet recruited on individual contracts according to age, talent and beauty. That would, of course, be highly invidious — but this is supposed to be showbiz, not a rest home.

Either way, Covent Garden's managers are drinking in the last-chance Crash Bar. If these things are not sorted out during closure,

they never will be. Across the Channel the terrible example of the Bastille Opera looms. There, archaic working practices were carried over into a new opera house, with disastrous results.

The question is whether McIntosh has the clout or indeed the desire to grasp the nettle. Her impeccably liberal background — York University sociology studies under Laurie Taylor; Labour activist; 24 years working in the pink-tinted world of subsidised theatre — is not immediately encouraging. Nor are newspaper reports that her appointment was greeted with "euphoria" inside Covent Garden.

But does she really want to run a rich person's club with an upmarket cabaret? Does she want to exclude Covent Garden from the myriad broadcasting opportunities of the 21st century? That's her fate if she doesn't make the nasty decisions that have been ducked for decades.

But nobody said it would be easy. On balance, I think I might have stayed with Twinkling Trev.

Family misfortune

THEATRE

Long Day's Journey into Night
Young Vic

Yes, it is a long journey, three hours and 40 minutes in all. But for once it leads to something remarkably similar to night. English revivals of Eugene O'Neill notoriously tend to soften his emotional impact. The production Laurence Boswell has brought from Plymouth to London does not lack the discipline and intelligence for which we pride, or preen, ourselves this side of the Atlantic; but it has a dark intensity too. It is recognisably a journey into the murky memories that haunted O'Neill all his life.

His widow described how he emerged from the study where he was writing *Long Day's Journey* "gaunt and sometimes weeping, his eyes red, and looking ten years older than when he went in". Such was the effect on the ageing playwright of realising the mother who became a drug addict after giving birth to him, the father who won fame as a romantic actor but never fulfilled his ambitions, the elder brother already sunk deep into the bitterness and alcohol that were to "kill" him, and, fourth and last, himself at a time when it looked as if he might succumb to TB. He named the family

the Tyrones, but in every particular they were the O'Neills.

Just to add to the feeling that the play was "written in tears and blood", as its dedication claimed, O'Neill telescoped time as tightly as the severest of neo-Classical dramatists. Within just 12 hours Mary resumes the morphine habit the others thought she had beaten. Edmund gets his ominous diagnosis from the doctors. James Jr goes on a big bender, and James Sr acknowledges his disappointments over a whisky bottle.

For all the family, but especially for Mary, the past is more real than the present or future. It is unalterable and determines everything, yet it is the subject of unending dispute, for if only this character had been wiser or that one more generous, all might be different now. The past obsesses and

it creates unmanageable guilts and resentments.

None of the actors makes a grab for our sympathy, but each has the sensitivity and skill to make us see his or her point of view. We feel for Paul Rhys's shrill, anxious Edmund, for Richard Johnson's James Sr, a genial, caring man out of his emotional depth, even for James Jr, though Mark Lambert is better at conveying the decency behind the cynicism than at playing drunkenness. Above all, we feel for Mary, manipulative and self-pitying though she is.

Actually, Penelope Wilton catches much more than that. She starts quietly, hinting at trouble with a nervous rub of her hands or scratch at her face, and then ups the tempo, pacing and jabbering and betraying the truth with a bleak, cut-off look here, a sudden, alarming snarl of anger there. The picture she presents is of a basically sensible woman succumbing to irrepressible demons and, even in the mad scene that ends the play, knowing she is doing so. Could anything be sadder, or truer to O'Neill? No, not really.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Darkness falls: Paul Rhys as Edmund and Penelope Wilton as Mary in O'Neill's harrowing *Long Day's Journey into Night*

BASE NOTES

WHILE most British musicals wait a season or more before opening in America, the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Alan Ayckbourn show *By Jeeves* has scheduled a speedy American debut for the autumn at the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut. The musical, to be directed there, as here, by Ayckbourn, starts performances on October 17 in the Norma Terris theatre, the smaller of Goodspeed's two venues. No word yet of a New York transfer, but this musical may well be too narrowly English for large-scale American consumption.

WHAT must be one of the most lucrative arts prizes in the world has named its 1996 winners. The Praemium Imperiale Arts Awards, sponsored by the Japan Art Association and announced at the Louvre in Paris this week, honour artists in the fields of painting, sculpture, architecture, music and theatre/film with a prize of 15 million yen each — approximately £90,000. This year the recipients are Cy Twombly (painting), César (sculpture), Tadao

Ando (architecture), Luciano Berio (music) and Andrzej Wajda (theatre/film).

A NEW arts centre for the disabled is to be built in Surrey, thanks to the National Lottery. Richard Stilgoe's Orpheus Trust has been awarded £2 million to build the centre, at Godstone, which will run courses in music, theatre, drama, dance, songwriting, recording and video. The buildings, based around the lyricist's old home and the 17th-century barn, will be completely accessible so that disabled and able-bodied people can perform together on equal terms.

THE new director of the Hayward Gallery on the South Bank in London is to be an American, Susan Ferleger Brades, who has been the deputy director at the gallery for the past three years. She worked at the Guggenheim Museum in New York before coming to London in 1978. Since 1980 she has been on the staff of the Hayward, where she has organised many of its largest exhibitions.

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POP

Symbolically yours: Prince (if we may) reveals a few hopes and dreams



RECITAL

Veteran sitar virtuoso Ravi Shankar gives the Barbican a serene evening of unadorned ragas

THE TIMES ARTS



RISING STAR

A 16-year-old from Moss Side has her play produced at Manchester's Contact Theatre



GOING OUT

Those tenors at Wembley, and all the other top events: see Weekend, pages 14, 15

The slave we know as Prince tells David Sinclair why his new album is his last (for Warners, anyway)

The man with no name has no label

The man with the most celebrated identity crisis in pop is installed on the 48th floor of a Manhattan hotel. The lift goes up so fast your ears pop. A security guard opens the door, and there he is. Dressed from head to toe in black he sits like a crow in his cold, remote eyrie high above the city. It is the middle of the afternoon, but his face is immaculately made up and his high-maintenance hair-style scraped and greased into extravagant shape. The near-silence feeds on his boots are at least three inches high. His hand-shake is firm, and when he eventually speaks his voice is deep and well modulated.

“The older I get the closer I am to where I’m going”

The musician that most people still call Prince, even if his entourage fearfully avoids calling him anything at all, has a new record out on Monday called *Chaos and Disorder*. Nothing unusual about that. Apart from 1993, he has released one and sometimes two albums of new material every year since 1978, a staggering output by the standards of today's pop superstars (over the same period, Michael Jackson has released just five new albums).

Musically, *Chaos and Disorder* is nothing out of the ordinary either. Another rich stew of roller-coaster funk riffs and spiky harmonies leavened by a couple of pretty pop tunes — including the single, *Dinner with Delores* — it is defined mostly by a rather more solid dose of princely guitar soloing than is the norm.

What does make this album special is that it is his last with his group, the New Power

Generation, and his last for Warner Bros, marking the end of an artist/record company squabble that has been as intense as that between George Michael and Sony. “I have decided to part company with Warners, but surprisingly we’re now on the most amicable terms that we’ve been for a long time,” he says.

So the man with no name now has no group and no record contract. He obviously still feels a strong sense of

injustice about Warners owning the mechanical copyright of his recordings, despite having negotiated and signed a contract (reported to be worth \$100 million to him) as recently as 1992. “I’m not free to write and record with who I want,” he says.

“If I wanted to write a song with you I could not do it.” Yet he is fantastically vague when it comes to discussing the nuts and bolts of the dispute. Part of the problem apparently stemmed from Warners’ reluctance to release the sheer volume of work he is capable of producing, for fear of flooding the market. You can see the company’s point.

Prince’s writing and recording habits are prolific to the point of profligacy. He tells me he wrote three songs the day before. Two of these were “worked on” in a recording studio session that ended at 5am. He has hundreds of unreleased songs in the vaults. He has written a full-blown orchestral symphony but does not know what will become of it. He cannot even remember whether or not he wrote any original material specifically for the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago’s *Billboards* show featur-



So, what gets your motor running, Princeman? “I am energised by music. Music is my reason for existence. Writing it, playing it, listening to it”

ing his music, which has caused a sensation in the American dance world and is coming to the Festival Hall next month. “I am energised by music,” he says. “Music is my reason for existence. Writing it, playing it, listening to it.”

Interviews, however, seem to have the opposite effect on him. A mixture of extreme shyness and overweening arrogance, he is an erratic and unforthcoming conversationalist. On February 14 he married his former backing singer and dancer Mayte, but who is expecting his baby. But any talk of their relationship is strictly off-limits (“Too personal,” he says, as if admonishing a naughty child). He will not discuss the lyrics of his songs. “Once they are on that record they are yours to make what you want of them. I don’t want to spoil the process by explaining what I think they are about.”

He will not say if he is negotiating a new recording contract and has no plans to tour. Despite finding himself at a significant watershed both in his personal and professional life, he does not wish to

dwell on the past and will not talk about the future at all. Perhaps, at the age of 38, he is feeling threatened by the prospect of growing older.

“Not at all. I love growing older. You can figure things out quicker because you’ve seen how things happen in the past and so you know what results a certain action will have. Also, the older I get the closer I am to where I’m going, which is a better place.”

This is the only point at which he begins to get at all animated. “We all have a purpose within us. We are all put here for a reason. My talent is God-given, but the music is made by me. I make the choices that produce the music.” He starts to sound like a preacher, an image reinforced by his long, black frock-coat and the big gold cross-cum-arrow which dangles from his neck.

A lot of cosmic waffle ensues. He insists I should read a book called *Embraced by the Light* by Betty Eadie, which is about near-death experiences, and then I will fully understand what he is talking about. But he goes all coy when asked if he has had any near-death experiences himself. “That’s too psychological.” Interviewing him is like trying to shake hands with a shadow.

He changed his name in 1993 because his spirit told him to. Was he pleased that he had done it? “Absolutely.” Would he consider changing it again? “Yes, if I was instructed to. I just do what I’m told.”

Chaos and Disorder is released by Warner Bros on Monday

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

RACHEL BROGAN

Age: 16

Hails from: She has lived all her life in Moss Side and nearby Rusholme, parents unemployed.

Achievement: Her first play has just been produced at Manchester’s Contact Theatre. She was a winner of this year’s Manchester Airport Young Playwrights’ Festival.

What’s the story? *Stages of Love* was originally inspired by Brogan’s own family’s past. Set in the 1950s, it contemplates forms of slavery and dysfunctional relationships, schisms and fusions. The story follows two Irish newlyweds. They abandon Ireland because the well-born husband’s working-class wife is being treated like a servant but, after they settle in Manchester, their marriage falls apart partly because of alcohol dependency. She leaves him for a Jamaican immigrant, who suffers racism in common with the Irish. “It is funny in parts,” says Brogan, “and pretty sad.”

High marks: The Contact’s artistic director, Benedict Ayrton, says: “Besides being a remarkable story, this play is really one of the best pieces I’ve seen by a young person



because of its structure, economy of language, heartbreaking silences and its pauses which leave so much for the actors to make up their own minds about.”

Coming into Contact: Encouraged by her mother (who, incidentally, has just finished

a novel). Brogan has been going to the theatre since she was tiny. “I remember seeing *Stig of the Dump*,” she says. “And really enjoying the closeness of theatre which television didn’t have.” Then, this year, Rachel chose to go to the Contact for a week’s work experience. As she was typing, frantically faxing, someone suggested she should pop a play into the young playwrights’ competition. She came back with the plot outline the next day and, after a workshop, wrote the play in a weekend.

On herself: “I think I’m very confident, outgoing, very polite and really singing my own praises.”

On the festival: “Before this I never dreamt I’d have a play on here. It gives people hope.”

KATE BASSETT

WORLD MUSIC

Sitar heroics

RAVI SHANKAR has appeared in many guises over the past half century — orchestral collaborator, jazz improviser, film and ballet composer and all-round cross-cultural ambassador. At the Barbican, he returned to the core elements in a serene recital of unadorned ragas. What unites both his traditional and westernised compositions is their irrepressible vitality. Even on the sombre evening raga *Marwa* — from the recent four-disc career retrospective, *In Celebration* — his rhapsodic sitar ultimately moves from darkness to an affirmation of the pulse of life.

Ravi Shankar
Barbican

The impersonal contours of the Barbican are hardly the ideal venue for such profoundly meditative music. The scent of incense in the auditorium could not quite dispel that familiar airport-terminal ambience. Shankar’s beatific presence nevertheless quickly drew his audience into the heart of each performance.

Accompanied by the drone of a bass and treble tanpura, he deployed his most luxurious lines on the introductory *alap* section, the majestic setting steadily gathering momentum with the understated entrance in the *gat* sequence of the tabla player Bikram Ghosh. As the pace increased further, Shankar’s string of percussive bent notes and dramatic shifts in register were marks of a hard-won technique that seems unsullied by the passing years.

The flurry of tones and microtones contrasted with the calm reticence of his teenage daughter, Anoushka. Responding with deftly chosen phrases, she tiptoed reverently behind her father as he descended deeper into the labyrinth of pure rhythm.

The second half of the evening brought a slightly looser thematic structure, the players encouraged to ad-lib with extracts from folk songs and other sources. Father and daughter floated free in an enthralling, good-natured duel, one break swiftly following another and all crowned by an extraordinarily expressive but self-disciplined solo from Ghosh.

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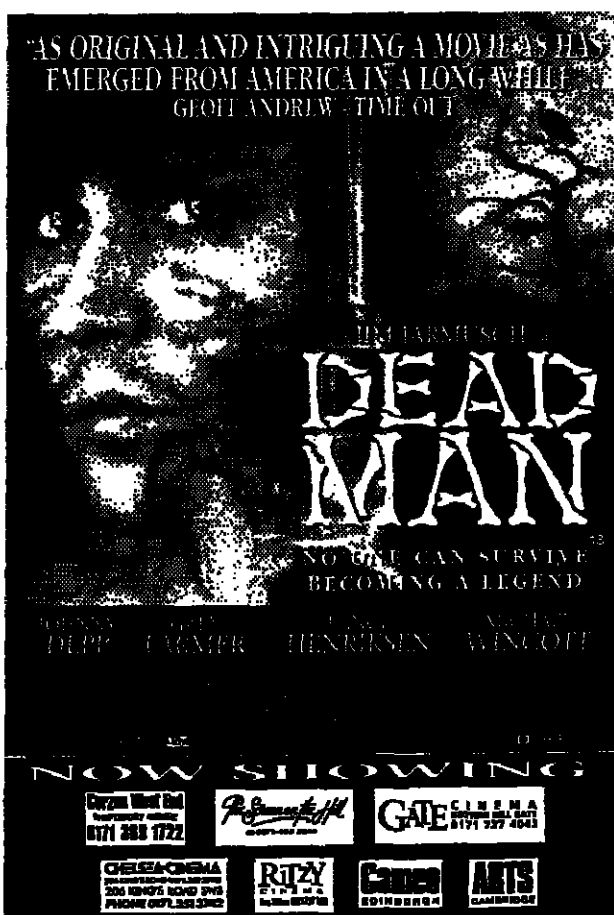
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Roger Scruton argues that by pretending animals have rights we are blinded to our responsibility for their well-being

The beauty of the beasts

Almost everything that could be said about the BSE crisis has been said already: but not quite everything. There is one aspect which has so far gone unnoticed in the press, but which deserves mention, since it connects with one of the most important moral problems faced by modern societies. I refer to the more or less total silence of the lobby for "animal rights".

Organised groups have defied the law in order to prevent the export of calves; others have disrupted fox-hunts and angling competitions; the more militant have set fire to milk-yards and sent bombs through the post to scientists engaged in animal research. Public opinion has been stirred up against the fur-trade, against whaling, against the culling of seal cubs, and against the eating of veal. Academic reputations have been made through the defence of animal rights. And yet this vast body of public opinion, faced with the

pointless slaughter of millions of healthy animals, falls silent.

Surely, if animals have any rights, then they have the right to be spared from slaughter when the only motive is to appease our masters in Brussels? Anyone who has witnessed the tears of a farmer as his carefully tended herd is condemned to destruction will know who really has had the interest of these animals at heart. One could be forgiven for thinking that the animal-rights movement is less interested in defending animals than in attacking the people who look after them.

Such a conclusion would be unjust. The fact is that we have become deeply confused about the nature of animals, and about the proper way of relating to them. The

loss of the religious worldview, and the sanitised view of nature that people obtain from television, has caused us to overlook the real distinctions between animals and people and to pass rapid and arbitrary judgment in matters that require a symptom of moral laziness: it bespeaks a failure to take the question of their welfare as seriously as we should.

Of course, animals can be helped and harmed; they experience joy and suffering; and they are crucially dependent upon human beings to safeguard their long-term interests. But not all interests are rights. A right is an interest that cannot be overridden without its owner's consent. We assign rights in order to protect the sovereignty of the individual, so that he is free to enter

into negotiated relations with others of his kind. Unlike the animals, we make free choices based on the evaluation of alternatives. We criticise one another's actions. We offer reasons for doing or not doing what another proposes. We exert a kind of sovereignty over our lives, which obliges us to respect the sovereignty of others. In short, we are moral beings — and we must purchase our rights by assuming responsibility. If animals had rights then they would have duties too: in which case whole species should be condemned, like the lion, the fox and the heron, to ignominious exile from the fold of Creation.

Because animals make no moral judgments, it would be cruel and ultimately senseless to treat them as though they were members of a

moral community. The attempt to broker our relations with other species through concepts of right and duty would inevitably lead to a breakdown of all cordial sentiment between us and them. It is because the advocates of animal rights know this that they fall silent when the real test of their convictions arises. Meanwhile, however, their vociferous spokespersons have so clouded people's minds that we are left helpless in the face of the catastrophe that faces Britain's cattle.

How then can we fulfil our moral duties towards animals? Everything depends upon the relationship between us. Towards pet and domestic animals we have assumed a duty of care; we

have undertaken a responsibility for their well-being, which we cannot arbitrarily set aside just because it would be convenient. If you have bred and raised an animal who is totally dependent upon you for its well-being, then you are not entitled to put it down without a good reason. It is a good reason that the animal is sick or suffering; it is for a good reason that it is healthy but required as human food — for in that case it owes its existence to the fact of being eaten. But it is not a good reason that some bureaucrat requires it, in order to appease your competitor in another country. It is not a good reason that public hysteria cries out for it.

Towards animals in the wild we have assumed no duty of care. But

this does not mean that we can treat them in any way we please. Sympathy towards the joys and sufferings of other creatures sets limits to our treatment of them: so do our conceptions of human vice and virtue. Those who understand what is at stake in hunting, shooting and fishing know that these serve the interest of wild animals far more effectively than any belief in their rights. But as long as people prefer simple solutions to arduous moral thinking it will be hard to persuade them of this truth.

The time has come, it seems to me, to address the moral question of animals with the seriousness that it deserves. This is a duty that we owe, not only to the animals but to all those who are charged with looking after them — and to farmers in particular.

Roger Scruton's pamphlet, *Animal Rights and Wrongs*, is published by Demos.

Come again to Tiananmen

Jonathan Mirsky on the legacy of 75 years of Chinese Communism

In the same week that Russian voters rejected the Communist Party, whose agents in the early 1920s helped the young Mao Tse-tung and a few others to found a Communist party of their own, the 75th anniversary of that founding was greeted coolly in Peking. President Jiang Zemin, who is also Party General Secretary, was in Europe and the meagre celebrations were confined to articles in the little-read *People's Daily*.

Why only two cheers for the Party? It is not that the Party has nothing to say for itself. It still insists that Mao, who was present at its official founding in Shanghai in 1921, was ultimately responsible for China's liberation, that Mr Deng, who joined the Party three years later, made enormous contributions to the economy, and that Mr Jiang is virtually the equal of his two mighty predecessors.

With the Chinese materially more well-off than ever, and China now a world-class player in international affairs, the very key seems odd. But what would the third cheer sound like? This is a Party, not a State occasion when flaws are masked with fireworks, march-pasts and leaders waving from the podium on top of the gate at Tiananmen Square.

The biggest traditional gong the Party can bang is a resolution. Resolutions look back on achievements and on "errors" which never remain unresolved, and ahead to the future. In 1945, the Party's 24th year, a resolution appeared reviewing the Party's history — there were still four years to go until the 1949 seizure of power — and making plain that Mao Tse-tung stood alone in authority and importance. In 1971, the 50th anniversary was ruined by the slide into ignominy of Marshal Lin Biao, Mao's designated successor. Soon afterwards, it is claimed, he tried unsuccessfully to assassinate the Chairman and died in a plane crash while fleeing to Mongolia. No resolution.

In 1981, the 60th anniversary, a resolution emerged evaluating Mao, dead since 1976, as a great "tragic" revolutionary who brought catastrophe to China with the Cultural Revolution but who remained on balance a great man, and conceding that the Party had gloriously mended its ways. Mr Deng's message was not unlike John Major's slogan: "Yes it hurt. Yes it worked."

The vast obstacle to an inspiring message this year is Tiananmen Square. A jagged scar, it disfigures the years since 1989 and will not start to heal until the truth is told. A year after what the Party officially still cites as "the incident", a very high official told me that until what

really happened on the night of June 3, 1989, was "re-examined", "rectified", and the "verdict reversed" (the three mantras invoked to deal with lies about the past), the Chinese would never give their loyalty to any leader.

Some Western China-watchers, keen to get on well with Peking, insist Tiananmen Square, although "tragic", is no longer of consequence. The Chinese, they claim, are too busy making money. This ignores the official admission that there were uprisings in 80 cities outside Peking. In the words of the BBC's James Miles, in his recent book, *The Legacy of Tiananmen*: "Those affected do not necessarily go around looking gloomy."

The Party continues to insist — which few Chinese believe — that what occurred in 1989 was a "counter-revolutionary uprising". Mr Deng, who ordered in the tanks, abetted by top officials such as Premier Li Peng, told Canada's ex-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in 1990 that had Tiananmen Square continued there would have been a civil war, "rivers of blood" and "well over 100 million people fleeing the country".

Under house arrest in Peking today is former Party General Secretary and Premier Zhao Ziyang, disgraced and stripped of office by the Party for colluding with the counter-revolutionaries. If this were Mao's day he might have wasted away in prison. Today invisibility is enough: in recent Chinese newspaper pictures of Margaret Thatcher signing the 1984 treaty with Mr Zhao, he has been razed out.

If there were a "re-examination" of Tiananmen Square, perhaps on the Party's 80th anniversary in 2001, followed by a "rectification" and a "reversal", Mr Zhao would be freed and although very old could become a rallying point for a new order of some sort. Millions of apologies or one huge omnibus apology would have to be made. Li Peng would not survive.

And Mr Deng? For such a resolution he would have to be dead. Like Mao, he too would be summed up as a "tragic" hero. There would be a cautious national sigh of relief. There would be no compensation for the victims of 1989 and little academic research into what really happened. Such is "reversal" Chinese-style.

But, just as the 1981 resolution led to the public questioning which ended in Tiananmen Square, one condemning the 1989 killings would lead many Chinese to think it was at last safe to demand fundamental political change. This could be a fatal mistake.

No more feel-smug factor

What do Tony Blair, John Major and the Archbishop of Canterbury have in common? They have all indulged in oratorical Muzak

Yesterday the Archbishop of Canterbury had a fit of morality. The day before, Tony Blair had a fit of ideology and John Major covered the Scots with love bites by presenting them with the Stone of Scone. Summer is clearly coming. The moon is changing. The ozone layer is thinning. This is the way the world ends: not with a bang but a waffle.

We start with the Archbishop. George Carey has launched another great debate on the nation's morals. The nation, he says, is steeped in moral decline. In the House of Lords and numerous press interviews he has deplored those who regard morality as a matter of personal opinion. That, he said, was "relativism". Children should be taught that life was like football, to be played according to rules. Parents and teachers must teach right from wrong, and practise what they teach.

So far so bland. But behind every moral crusader there is usually a trade unionist bursting to get out. The rules of which the Archbishop speaks are, to him, indistinguishable from the spiritual values of the Christian church. Britain, he says, is still influenced by the "rich moral legacy of the Judeo-Christian tradition". He told *The Daily Telegraph* that it is squandering this tradition and living off something he calls moral capital. He told *The Independent* that morality needed to be seized back from the private sector and subjected to public ownership. Without a spiritual and moral heartbeat society would perish. Schools should inculcate these moral-spiritual-Christian values by daily worship in school. So there we have it.

Tony Blair's Labour Party is growing more like the Church of England by the day. On Thursday he published his secular version of the Archbishop's sermon, a draft manifesto on which party members are being invited to "vote". Britain is again in decline, tired and outdated. It needs new Labour and Mr Blair.

New Labour is "neither old left nor new right... It leads from the centre but is profoundly radical in the changes it promises. The time has come to breathe new life into our country... a fundamental change in the values of government." There is, says Mr Blair, "too

little sense of common purpose across the nation." To the nation's questions, Labour now "provides the answers".

The document is as full of waffle as the Archbishop's bromides. It reminds me of an advertisement for an InterCity chardonnay, "with its fresh flavour of bananas and strawberry and a sprinkling of pepper to whet your appetite, fresh as country nettles and meadow grass." Labour wants to give everyone "a stake in society", to "clean up politics and give power back to the people". Apart from some hesitant constitutional reform, there is nothing new or objectionable or controversial.

The document reeks of Labour's wish to enter power with every option open. It is not politics but feel-good verbalism, intended to soothe the senses and make a Labour vote more easily down the electoral gullet.

The defining task of moral and political leadership is not to play with platitudes. I assume it is to help private citizens through life's painful choices in pursuit of a happy and prosperous life — where they cannot help themselves. Voltaire would see the past week's vacillations as no more than the striving of the powerful after more power. I see them as the effusions of men for whom words are no longer the grammatical link between thought and action. They are the noise of public life, oratorical Muzak.

I do not know what Dr Carey means by moral relativism and I am not sure that he does. Nor do I know how he identifies his own moral absolutism with spiritualism. He is musing about the English dictionary calls "terms of generalised approbation" to evoke a sympathetic response in an audience worried that the Church should somehow "give a lead". Like Labour's manifesto, the last thing the words are meant to be is controversial. They offer no guide to life's painful choices. They pretend that all is for the best if only we would do what the Bible says — which we will not.

When the Church of England has to lead its own, it finds no guidance in what Dr Carey terms "the moral logic of religion". When five years ago he should have made some painful choices in his backyard in Lincoln, he could not bring himself to do so. His Church still will not share its buildings in charity with



other religions. The attitude of many Anglican clergy to women and divorce is, in my relativist view, not just uncharitable but immoral. Dr Carey will opine with Mr Pecksniff that the world is indeed perplexed by sin and that his problems are more complex than I describe. Yet he presumes to hurl down moral absolutes on the teenagers, parents and teachers of Britain.

We must assume that both Mr Blair and Dr Carey have a vested interest in talking down the moral state of the nation. The one blames the Government, the other blames schools and families. Both have recently directed their ire at the state of education. Yet ask them what they really propose and they waffle. In a nutshell, the one says vote Labour, the other says go to church. Neither is prepared to chance his arm on why or how this will make Britain a happier or more prosperous place.

In a politician this is perhaps no surprise. But since Dr Carey singled out unbelievers as lacking "an ideological base for their ethical standards" and thus implied they were ethically wobbly, we can sense a whiff of battle. His national debate on the moral state of Britain

implies argument. But Dr Carey also asserted that the authority claimed by the Church for its moral programme is not open to question. He deplored "confusion and disagreement about the authority for moral absolutes." This is not for debate. It is received from God and communicated through the church.

The conservative Right in education has long demanded that schooling should concentrate on what is objective: sums, science, historical and geographical facts. Anything that smacked of argument smacked of socialism. Such objectivity has become the leitmotif of the national curriculum. Yet Dr Carey has been much taken with the suggestion of the head of that curriculum, Nicholas Tate, that in addition to facts, schools should inculcate values. Values may not be facts, but as long as they are the right ones, they are government-approved. They are acceptable subjectivity. Christian values are honorary facts.

This is all a total mish-mash. Mr Tate's values and Dr Carey's spiritual precepts are moral choices, to be made by free citizens after due debate. Perhaps there was a golden age when young and old could be induced to unthinking obedience by a process of terror, punishment and reward. Those

days are mercifully over. If Dr Carey wants to persuade children to abjure sex and drugs and honour their fathers and mothers, he must argue his pitch. There is no point in telling children that a pattern of behaviour is wrong, if you are not prepared to tell them why.

In my experience children are just as capable as adults of discerning and discussing ethical choices. It is adults who rarely have the guts to take them on, let alone admit occasional defeat. The roots of moral dilemma lie in personal experience, in which right and wrong are not clear cut and choice is by its nature "relative". The House of Lords yesterday denied this in favour of something called "a national moral consensus". If this is a consensus in favour of argument and persuasion, it might succeed. If it is mere moral absolutism, it will stay floating in the air of their lordships' House.

Since the dawn of time, the old have decried the young as degenerate and summoned a crusade to lift them from moral squalor. It is the hoariest cliché in the book and those who utter it always find someone else to blame. I am sure Mr Blair and Dr Carey mean no ill. They needed something plausible to say in a dull week. But that is no excuse.

Bombed out

THE COMMUNICATIONS nexus at the Royal Air Force has had its wings clipped. Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, has banned letters which are rude about the RAF from being published in the service's official newspaper *RAF News*.

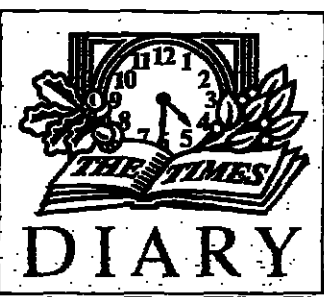
The decision follows a barrage of criticism from the national press of Michael Portillo, Defence Secre-

tary and party-giver. But yesterday, the MoD insisted that Mr Portillo had no part in the decision. "It is an internal RAF matter, absolutely nothing to do with Mr Portillo," said a spokesman. "The editor had been trying to ginger-up the letters pages but some of the young members of the RAF responded a little too enthusiastically, and the criticism was starting to become personalised on a senior level."

The editor informs his readers of the decision in a terse statement in the current issue, headed *Stop Press*. "Be advised," he writes, "that letters critical of certain sensitive areas in the RAF environment are now subject to a vetting procedure which may delay, change or eliminate them." Yesterday, the editor was out of contact.

Bottle blond

PAUL GASCOIGNE's kaleidoscopic variety of hair-styles is playing havoc with the toy industry. Corinthian Toys produced thousands of 3in-high figures of the goalscorer in blond earlier this



year, only to find that he'd dyed his hair black. They sent all the mini-Gazzas back to be repainted, ready for sale at the end of April, when he went blond again for Euro '96. "That boy's a key player in our range but he's proved a handfitter," says the firm — which now sells pots of hair-dye with their prize footballer.

Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, guests of honour at a party in Harrods after the premiere of *Mission Impossible* on Thursday night, made a quick exit to catch a flight to Bratislava, where she is filming. Other guests, including Mrs Chamberlain (formerly Elaine Spencer), Barbara and Ken Follet and Vanessa Redgrave, were too busy to notice their departure. They were gorging on a vast and vulgar birthday cake provided by

Mohamed Al Fayed for Cruise's birthday on Wednesday.

Smoke and ire

ADVICE FOR female visitors to the Governor's residence. Hong Kong: throw away the pillar-box lipstick, leave the ciggies behind and don't even think of painting your nails. In the August issue of *Harpers & Queen*, Chris Patten writes movingly of fashion and female beauty. "One of the most un-



No smoking, please

attractive sights in the world is a woman sitting next to an ashtray piled with cigarette butts with bright scarlet ends," he says. "I hate red nails and lipstick, and women who wear heavy eye make-up."

Sir David Frost, no stranger to the powder puff himself, also condemns cosmetics: "Beauty comes from within, not from within tubes, compacts and sprays — though I have often wondered: if it is so hard for women to keep lipstick on, why is it so hard for men to get it off?"

Heir apparent

AGITATED moustache-twirling in Brussels over the announcement by Prince Philippe, eldest son of King Albert II of Belgium, that he wants to be king. Until now, his shyness and beetroot blushes in public had led many to think he did not have the stomach for his birthright. Yesterday, however, in an unprecedented step, the unmarried Philippe, 36, summoned journalists and told them that he would be prepared to step up to the throne if his father died or abdicated.

Confusion has circled Philippe since the death of his childhood uncle, King Baudouin, in 1993. It had long been thought that his father Albert, then 59, would step aside to



Omar Sharif: silky charmer sells fun to the Sowetans

leave his son to take the throne. Stints at Oxford and Stanford universities, and the Belgian Air Force, a mean outfit, were meant to have groomed him. Instead Albert took over. Philippe has now emerged from his shell and is ready for the main job.

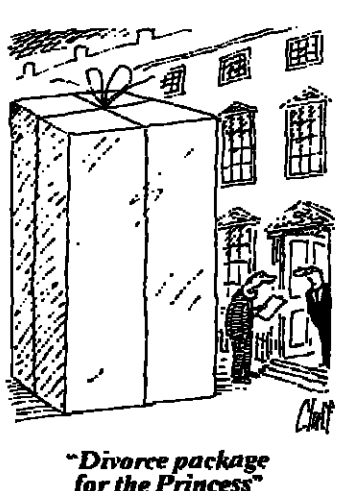
Good gnus

SOWETANS are soon to receive a master-class in suavity from Omar Sharif, the smoothest living film

star by streets since David Niven donned his celestial polo-neck. Sharif is the firmament in the township for a £400-million development called Fun Valley.

There will be colossal hotels, gurgling waterfalls and plastic gnus stalking the arria. The venture marks an upturn in fortunes for Sharif, a bridge-player and the silkier Egyptian ever to pull on a Subranie Cucktail.

P.H.S



"Divorce package for the Princess"



THE HONOURABLE WAGE

Time to be realists not populists on MPs' pay

On Wednesday evening the House of Commons will be asked their views on the recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body. The Government will suggest that they reject those deliberations and instead raise their pay in line with inflation. Members should ignore the Government and vote through the original increase.

None of this has made a pretty picture. John Major commissioned this committee to examine the issue of remuneration. Then when, entirely logically, it said that significant improvements in salaries were warranted, he suggested that its judgment should be jettisoned because the analysis is inconvenient in the year before an election. In this he gets backing from leaders of both main opposition parties. In the abstract all agree that MPs have fallen well behind in the pay scale but that this year, like every year, is not the time to deal with it.

This is a miserable exercise which cries out for honesty. The truth is that by every possible measure — inflation rates, overall wage increases, senior civil servants' stipends and international comparison — MPs' salaries have stagnated and those of Ministers slumped over the last 30 years. Every time a sensible suggestion is made for correction it is either "phased in" over an inordinate period or abandoned outright for fear of adverse public perception. This problem will never be solved unless a stand is taken. Now is the time.

The increases recommended for backbenchers are below that which could be upheld by the price index or foreign comparison. A degree of restraint has already occurred. No more is necessary. It is high time for us to be realists not populists on this issue. This matter should have been dealt with at

the time of the Nolan report. It reflects little credit on Mr Major that it was not.

Nor should this call be compromised by the currently fashionable view that the number of MPs should be reduced to accompany any increase in their pay slips. This is a popular but misplaced argument. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead has raised the hoary comparison with the United States which has about five times our population but only 435 members of the House of Representatives and 100 Senators. This is a fallacious comparison. The United States is a federal system with more than 4,500 paid legislators serving at the state level.

Lord Jenkins, normally such an enthusiastic advocate of the EU, fails to make a European comparison. Britain at present has 651 MPs. France has 577 members in its National Assembly. Italy has 630 in the Chamber of Deputies (about what the UK would be without the over-representation of Scotland and Wales). Germany has 672. In all cases they are better compensated than in Westminster. It also seems odd that when virtually all studies indicate that Members are overloaded with constituency work, the proposed solution is a legislative cull.

Both front benches solemnly oppose the increase while privately hoping that the backbenchers will revolt and vote it through regardless. This is a cowardly position to take. Britons may not love their politicians but someone has to do the job and it should be treated properly. It would not be in the interests of the country for Parliament to be filled with the otherwise unemployed or the privately wealthy. The Senior Salaries Review Body has produced a compelling case. It should be supported, openly and honestly on Wednesday night.

MANDATE FOR ISRAEL

Netanyahu should seize the opportunity he has been given

There has not been much of a political honeymoon for Benjamin Netanyahu. An aggrieved maid assailed his wife for sacking her over burnt soup. This "Nannygate" was followed by the revelation that four separate names had held Mr Netanyahu's social security number when he worked in the United States. The fanciful implication was that he kept a false identity as an American spy. Then Foreign Minister David Levy demanded last week that the Prime Minister settle the question of Ariel Sharon's Cabinet status before his departure for Washington tonight or he would resign.

Soup and social security numbers will blow over. The question of Mr Sharon and Mr Levy will not. This was the second time in a month that the Foreign Minister had embarrassed his erstwhile leader. On the first occasion he refused to be sworn into office until a suitable portfolio was found for Mr Sharon. Mr Netanyahu created a position of Minister for National Infrastructure. Constructing this new body from the empires of others proved so slow that Mr Sharon indicated his displeasure through Mr Levy's unusually public threat. The Prime Minister has again relented and produced a defence and security component for Mr Sharon endorsed by the full Cabinet.

These machinations centre on factional alignments. Mr Netanyahu defeated Mr Levy in a bitter struggle for the Likud leadership in 1993. Levy, who then bolted and formed the Geshet Party, had initially intended to stand in the contest for Prime Minister. This would have almost guaranteed the victory of Shimon Peres over a divided right. A last-minute deal, brokered

by Mr Sharon, prevented this. The two men believe they should now be rewarded.

This is not what the introduction of a direct ballot for Prime Minister in Israel was meant to achieve. That reform was in reaction to the power exercised in the Knesset by tiny parties and the horse-trading to create governments. It was hoped that the clear and personal mandate awarded by the people would sweep such activity aside. Yet in the month that has followed the poll, the two Likud heavyweights have challenged that authority, swapping intra-party squabbles for inter-party schemes.

Mr Netanyahu must give no more ground. If he wants to use his post meaningfully he needs to assert himself now. Otherwise he will always be shackled. These disputes have obscured significant initiatives by the Prime Minister over the last week. He has made it plain that the liberal economic reforms pursued by his predecessor will continue. He has softened his hostility to the Palestinian National Authority by dispatching his senior adviser, Dore Gold, to meet with Yasser Arafat. After those talks it was announced that all channels to the PNA would be re-opened. The Prime Minister also revealed his willingness to meet President Assad of Syria. Much more friendly noises concerning the redeployment of Israeli troops in Hebron have been made.

If Mr Netanyahu is to fulfil his pledge to negotiate from strength and continue these welcome developments, he must stamp his authority on his own Government. Anything less would make a mockery of the ballots Israelis cast in May.

CONDEMNED FOR CONVERSION

Kuwait was not liberated to allow persecution of Christians

When the vast, multi-national alliance drove the Iraqi invaders out of the tiny kingdom of Kuwait at the end of the Gulf War five years ago, the coalition's first aim was to re-establish the Kuwaiti state. Behind that purpose lay a hope: that the renewed Kuwait might be a more plural, tolerant and open society than in the past. That hope, always dim in sceptics' eyes, has rarely been more brutally dashed than by our account today of the case of Kuwaiti citizen and Christian convert, Robert Hussein.

Mr Hussein, a 44-year-old married man lives in hiding and in fear of his life; he has been separated from his children, and his wife is reported to have been abducted and raped. He lives the kind of life which many Kuwaitis lived during the appalling half year of occupation by Iraq. But Kuwait is now at peace and Mr Hussein has broken no law passed by his Government. His only crime has been to convert to Christianity, thus breaking Islam's Sharia law.

The Kuwaiti constitution promises freedom of religion but the assurance is hollow: Sharia law takes precedence over the law of the land. Mr Hussein can take an appeal to a civil court later this year but his chances of success are not high and he and his friends believe that fundamentalists may try to kill him. At least five people have died over the past two years after being declared apostates in countries where Sharia law is practised, at of them in Pakistan.

Even making due allowance for the concessions which every kingdom in the Gulf has had to make to radical Islam, this is a disgrace which will poison Kuwait's relations with those Western countries which rescued it from oblivion only a few years ago. When Christian and Muslim

soldiers fought to free Kuwait, they did not do so to see men flee their homes and families because of changing their religion. Death sentences for apostasy are wrong wherever they are pronounced or carried out. But any Christian soldier who served in the Gulf could be forgiven for feeling bitter: a man is being persecuted in Kuwait for no greater crime than leaving Islam and converting to Christianity. Of all countries which might owe a little consideration to Christians, Kuwait is surely that place.

The picture of Kuwaiti society painted by Mr Hussein's case is of a government too weak to prevent religious mob rule over the victims of Islamic law. Let us hope that Mr Hussein survives his ordeal. But even if he does, his life has been wrecked for the "crime" of taking too literally the Koran's injunction to study the Bible. Over a number of years and beginning at an American university in the 1970s, Mr Hussein read more and more, converted and changed his name. For thus "insulting Islam" he has been divorced by the Sharia court, forbidden to see his children and stripped of his rights and passport.

If the Kuwaiti Government cannot make good the guarantees of religious freedom in its constitution, the British or American Government should suggest that Mr Hussein and his family be allowed to leave Kuwait and settle elsewhere if they wish. Governments are naturally reluctant to set precedents which might multiply claims for asylum. But such a rescue would hardly be likely to occur very often. If either ex-President George Bush or John Major were to appeal to the Kuwaiti authorities, they could hardly refuse. The rulers of that fortunate state owe the outside world no less.

Somme sacrifice was not in vain

From Canon Michael Saward

Sir, Ten years ago this week you published a letter from me (July 2, 1986) describing my experience on the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. I had stood, with not a living soul in sight, on July 1, 1976, at 7.28am, on the edge of the enormous mine crater known as Lochnagar, which had erupted at that very moment 60 years earlier.

It formed the most visible symbol of the infantry battle which then commenced, in which nearly 20,000 British soldiers died before the sun went down and twice as many more were wounded. Lochnagar is 300ft across and 90ft deep.

An unexpected consequence of that letter was that I was invited from then onward to become chaplain to a group of men and women who had joined with Mr Richard Dunning, an Englishman who had purchased the crater in 1979. Every year they gather to honour the memory of that terrible day and for seven years I helped to conduct a deeply moving commemoration. Since 1994 one of my brother clergy has continued the tradition.

Unlike the big formal military events, with their generals and politicians, Lochnagar has become the symbol of ordinary people's respect and gratitude. Year by year the numbers of British, French and more recently German men and women attending have grown and last Monday, on the 80th anniversary, there were about 900 people present.

The Somme was, by any standards, a ghastly slaughter and appalling casualties were suffered. The British remember it chiefly for those casualties and especially for the horror of the first day. Your leader (June 29), following a long-standing tradition fostered by Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, fails to grasp the fact that the German General Ludendorff acknowledged that "the Somme was the muddy grave of the German field army... fought to a standstill and utterly worn out".

No one can contemplate what happened with indifference and the ground gained was certainly insignificant, but Ludendorff's words show that those British soldiers and their colleagues from the then Empire did not die vainly.

It is that realisation which led the historian, John Terraine, to describe the Somme as "the turning point" in the First World War. We, even today, owe to those of our countrymen who suffered and died the recognition that their terrible sacrifice was not utterly pointless.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SAWARD
(Canon Treasurer,
St Paul's Cathedral),
6 Amen Court, EC4,
July 3.

Mud and stars

From Mr Edward C. Wilson

Sir, Your thought-provoking leading article, "Mud and stars" (June 29), was right to praise the dogged courage of Kitchener's New Army of volunteers, but they were emphatically not Housman's honoured "mercenaries".

The men whom the Kaiser, according to some accounts, so wrongly dismissed as a "contemptible little army", formed the British Expeditionary Force, the regular soldiers of the British Army. They it was who "saved the sum of things for pay".

Those were Housman's honoured "Army of mercenaries" and, to their eternal glory, they took upon themselves the title of the Old Contemptibles.

I am, Sir, yours etc.
EDWARD WILSON,
19 Castle Meadow,
Sible Hedingham, Essex.
July 1.

From Mr F. Parrott

Sir, The famous photograph you show (June 29; July 1) to illustrate the Somme battle is of men, wearing little or no field-service equipment, moving up a trench. It has always seemed to me that whatever else they were doing, they were not going "over the top" on July 1, 1916.

I am informed by the Imperial War Museum that this was a photograph of a raiding party moving out into no man's land in spring 1917. I understand that shortly after the photograph was taken several of the Camerons (Scottish Rifles) in the picture were killed by what we now call "friendly fire" — a British shell dropping short.

Yours faithfully,
F. PARROTT,
50 Houndean Rise,
Lewes, East Sussex.
July 1.

From Dr J. S. Logan

Sir, It is shocking that a reference to a forthcoming piece in your Somme report (June 29) used the phrase "Ulster's conscripts" in relation to the dreadful losses of the Ulster Division. Every Ulsterman was a volunteer. There was no conscription in Ulster, either in the First World War or the Second.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. LOGAN,
27 Myrtlefield Park, Belfast.
June 29.

Weighing monarch's 500-year-old debt to New College

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

From Mr Justin Howes

Sir, Dr Joshua Silver, the sub-warden of New College, treats dangerously in his attempt to reclaim the college's outstanding loan to Edward IV of £140 with 4 per cent interest over 535 years ("College presents the Queen with a bill owed for five centuries", July 1).

In order to make a convincing case for itself, New College must first fully restore the value of its own undergraduate exhibitions and scholarships. I fear that after applying the same rate of interest it seeks from the Queen (but calculating over the mere century and a half since the rates were fixed at £40 and £60) New College may find itself liable to pay exhibitioners £14,356 and scholars £21,528 pa, in spite of a fairly recent increase in the amounts to £150 and £200 respectively.

This admirable move would, no doubt, be observed with interest by other ancient foundations anxious to alleviate the financial burdens faced today by too many undergraduates.

Yours faithfully,
JUSTIN HOWES,
45 High Street, New Mills, Cheshire.
July 1.

From Mr Benjamin Levy

Sir, While it may cause no surprise that eager academics should overlook the statutes of limitation, which extinguish a claim after six years where there is no acknowledgment by the debtor, one might expect the fellows of a foundation of a former Bishop of Winchester to balk at claiming interest on a debt created at a time when to lend money at interest was both a crime and a sin. Even the short-lived Act of 1545 which allowed lending at interest (37 Henry VIII c.9) still castigated usury as "being a Thing unlawful".

Should not this have given pause for thought, and possibly some reticence on the matter of interest compounded over five centuries? Even today the courts will only award simple interest on an ordinary debt. The college would do well to settle for an *ex gratia* payment.

Yours faithfully,
BENJAMIN LEVY,
Enterprise Chambers,
9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
July 1.

From Mr Alan Crossley, FSA

Sir, Oxford and its colleges have always understood the workings of patronage. New College should perhaps recall with gratitude the Crown's friendship: only 20 years before the loan of 1461 Henry VI had rescued the college finances by granting extensive estates confiscated from the alien priory of Longueville in Normandy.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CROSSLEY
(Editor), *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*,
Bodleian Library,
Broad Street, Oxford.
July 1.

From Mr George J. Levy

Sir, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, should have had the courage to announce 24 hours before the sale that she would make the Thomas à Becket casket the subject of an export licence deferral if it were purchased by an overseas buyer. The Heritage Fund would not then have been put in the invidious position of inflating the auction price, by somewhere in the region of £1 million, by being the underbidder to the successful purchaser.

The nation now has to reach this unnecessarily inflated price, assuming the overseas buyer is willing to sell, if it wants to save the casket from leaving Britain. What an extravagant way to save our heritage.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY,
H. Blairman & Sons,
119 Mount Street, W1.
July 5.

Divided by sport

From Mr Denis Harper

Sir, How unfair of Colonel Richard Graham (letter, July 4; see also letter, June 29) to infer that most Scots would cheer any team opposing England.

We are not all xenophobic and indeed some Scots do not even complain when the majority of people "down South" refer to Britain as England. We also try to be magnanimous when English football supporters flaunt the Union flag instead of that of St George.

I am British and a unionist but occasionally find it difficult to remain so. Sincerely,
DENIS HARPER,
20 Whinfield Drive,
Kinross, Scotland KY13 7UB.
July 4.

Antenatal cuts

From Miss Juliet McEachran

Sir, Your report headed "Deaths feared from antenatal cuts" (June 25) quotes a British figure of 1,000 infant deaths per annum from pre-eclampsia (a disturbance of the mother's circulation caused by a defect in the placenta). The true figure is around one third of this.

Our latest estimate, based on figures for 1994, indicates that the number of babies in England and Wales who died as a result of pre-eclampsia was 325 in 1994; including Northern Ireland the figure is 343.

Yours faithfully,
JULIET McEACHRAN
(Data analyst),
CESDI (Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy),
Lower Ground Floor, Chiltern Court,
188 Baker Street, NW1.
June 27.

cence on the matter of interest compounded over five centuries? Even today the courts will only award simple interest on an ordinary debt. The college would do well to settle for an *ex gratia* payment.

Yours faithfully,
BENJAMIN LEVY,
Enterprise Chambers,
9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
July 1.

From Dr Michael Haren

Sir, The most substantial palaeographical slip in your account of New College's memorandum of loan to Edward IV is the fact that the sum in question was 240 marks, not £240. (The crucial word "marcs" has been omitted in your transcription.) The effect is to reduce the original debt by one third.

And would Wykeham's foundation really have wished to be branded usurious? On the facts as stated, a mere £60 should honourably settle the affair.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HAREN,
c/o 5 Ellerslie,
Powfoot, Annan, Dumfries-shire.
July 2.

From Mr Alan Crossley, FSA

Sir, Oxford and its colleges have always understood the workings of patronage. New College should perhaps recall with gratitude the Crown's friendship: only 20 years before the loan of 1461 Henry VI had rescued the college finances by granting extensive estates confiscated from the alien priory of Longueville in Normandy.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CROSSLEY
(Editor), *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*,
Bodleian Library,
Broad Street, Oxford.
July 1.

Export of art and Becket casket sale

whereby the National Heritage Lottery Fund may contribute to a British public collection only a limited proportion of the price of a purchase. If the chase is worth "saving for the nation", is it not worth a 100 per cent grant?

Yours etc.
MICHAEL TOLLEMACHE,
Chairman,
Society of London Art Dealers,
91 Jermyn Street, SW1.
July 5.

From Mr George J. Levy

Sir, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, should have had the courage to announce 24 hours before the sale that she would make the Thomas à Becket casket the subject of an export licence deferral if it were purchased by an overseas buyer. The Heritage Fund would not then have been put in the invidious position of inflating the auction price, by somewhere in the region of £1 million, by being the underbidder to the successful purchaser.

The nation now has to reach this unnecessarily inflated price, assuming the overseas buyer is willing to sell, if it wants to save the casket from leaving Britain. What an extravagant way to save our heritage.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY,
H. Blairman & Sons,
119 Mount Street, W1.
July 5.

Beef crisis

From Sir Frederic Bennett

Sir, Whether the beef crisis has been effectively handled or not, HMG has set a dangerous precedent and legitimised a procedural process in holding up all the business of the EU Commission and the Council of Ministers, across the board, until their demands on a single issue have been met.

This is a tactic roundly and rightly condemned by Mr Major in his recent angry denunciation of two of his backbench colleagues who adopted the same tactics when seeking to attain their own particular political objective (report, June 15).

Henceforth any other EU country which wants to achieve a specific policy end, against the will of a majority of the other member states, will be tempted to adopt the same strategy affecting them — matters which this country is anxious to see speedily and positively resolved.

Yours etc.
FREDERIC BENNETT,
4 Hale Court, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
June 25.

From Mr R. T. Purbrick

Sir, "Beef ban over in months, says Major", you report today. Does this mean it will all be over by Christmas?

Yours faithfully,
R. T. PURBRICK,
4 Jersey Court,
Jersey Road, Osterley, Middlesex.
June 24.

Weekend Money letters, page 38

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

From Miss Ellen Nisbet

Sir, It appears that the age of chivalry has gone, and that of "sophisters, economists and calculators", as Burke put it in his *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, has finally taken hold in New College, Oxford.

Had the college had more grace, they would have forgiven the debt under the law of jubilees (Leviticus xxv, 10) on July 18, 1511. Perhaps they will forgive it in 2011 after ten more jubilees, for surely "manners maketh man".

I, however, shall be applying to Cambridge next year, where chivalry may still endure. Yours faithfully,
ELLEN NISBET,
Holly Cottage, Middle Hill,
Englefield Green, Surrey.
July 1.

From Miss Mary O'Regan

Sir, In your transcription of Edward IV's loan from New College "DA" should be *die* and "ammo" *anno*. (Ammo domini? Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition?) Your "novium victum" actually reads *novi victus* in the original.

Yours faithfully,
MARY O'REGAN,
18 St Martin's Drive,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.
July 1.

From Dr A. R. Stanford

Sir, Since the settlement of debts in the 15th century often took the form of payment in kind, perhaps Dr Joshua Silver of New College would consider accepting from Her Majesty an amount of hay equivalent to that which could have been purchased for £140 in 1460?

Yours faithfully,
A. R. STANFORD,
18 Princes Road, Bromham, Bedford.
July 1.

Slight to St George

From Professor Emerita Rebecca V. Colman

Sir, The appearance of some Union Jacks at Euro 96 in place of England's traditional flag of St George may have been a direct consequence of the confusion caused by Rome's highly questionable treatment of the saint (report, May 10, 1995).

When his commemoration was made voluntary instead of compulsory there was widespread suspicion that the Church had doubts about his credibility. That St George was an historical person Rome has never denied, but my researches into the Vatican records show that some saints, including St George, were not investigated for their credibility but were simply removed from the *Calendarium Romanum* to make space for saints considered "more topical" for our time, as Cardinal Bugnini described it in *L'Osservatore Romano* (May 29, 1969).

How and by whom that decision was made is a mystery: not everyone on the responsible committee, even, seems to have known.

There may have been embarrassment about the dragon (not mentioned in the records) but if so it was needless. The title of dragon-slayer was a popular accolade, like admission to the Hall of Fame. Constantine the Great, as Eusebius records, ordered a portrait of himself as a dragon-slayer for the portico of his new palace in Constantinople. Its symbolism was well understood in that literate age, as it should be in ours.

There is no justification whatever for this nation to reject either its flag or its patron saint.

Yours faithfully,
REBECCA V. COLMAN,
As from: University of Toronto,
Department of History,
Toronto M5S 1A1.
July 2.

Risk assessment

From Mr Peter C. G. Southgate

Sir, Mr Tom Baldwin's sun-worshipping, tobacco-addicted, mobile-phone user (letter, July 2) stands little chance of longevity unless he heeds other recent medical discoveries, such as the benefits of a regular intake of red wine, pasta and olive oil. Then he'll probably live forever.

Yours indulgently,
PETER SOUTHGATE,
Lincombe,
Leatherhead Road, Oxshott, Surrey.
July 3.

Striking right note

From Mr David Berdinner

Sir, Now that the Proms season is almost with us I wonder if there is any way of knowing which first performances are avant-garde and which, despite their newness, spring from past tradition.

Public money is given to composers and it would be helpful to those like myself who are performers, let alone to the general listener, to know if there are any criteria by which a composition earns its commission.

The fact that the composer has a knighthood, for example, would not, it seems, be sufficient insurance against a wasted evening.

Yours nervously,
DAVID BERDINNER,
33 Miswell Lane,
Tring, Hertfordshire.
July 4.

OBITUARIES

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL RALPH CARR

Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Carr, DSO and Bar, MBE, wartime sapper, died on June 19 aged 82. He was born on March 14, 1914.

IN A war of almost nonstop combat during which he won two DSOs and was three times wounded, the last time almost fatally, Ralph Carr participated in almost every campaign against the Axis, and one against the Vichy French. He fought the Italians in Greece and the French in Syria and Lebanon. He was involved in the defeat of the Axis in North Africa and the D-Day landings, and battled his way through the Normandy campaign, before leading his sappers in the final pursuit over the frontiers of the Reich.

He survived several brushes with death, some of which were very close. A German sniper trying to pick him off in the boggy area around Caen in 1944 later complained after being captured that he would have been able to shoot Carr dead had the RAF not previously bombed the Zeiss optical factory at Jena, thus depriving him of the precision sight with which his rifle had been fitted.

Having been thus indirectly saved by the RAF, Carr was, ironically, almost killed by a British air attack seven months later. While clearing mines from the suburbs of Goch in the North Rhine plain, during the 51st (Highland) Division's push for the river, his unit was accidentally hit by an RAF strike intended for the forward positions of the enemy. Wounded in the head by a bomb splinter, Carr suffered serious brain injury and lay unconscious for a month. Given only a 50-50 chance of surviving, he was nevertheless evacuated to Britain where a series of operations enabled him to make a partial recovery, though his military career was effectively terminated.

Born into a military family in Burma, Henry Ralph Carr was brought up there, in Ireland and in Worcestershire after his father retired from the Army. After going to school at Repton he entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, in 1932 and was commissioned into the Royal Engineers two years later. In 1936 he took a degree in Mechanical Sciences at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Almost immediately he was sent to Palestine where an emergency had arisen over Arab attacks on Jewish rural settlements. With road, rail and telephone communications under threat, Carr's duties involved escorting supply trains.

The emergency over, he stayed in the



Middle East and was in Egypt when Italy entered the war in June 1940. He then took part in the campaign which began with the Italian invasion of Egypt in September 1940 and ended with the complete destruction of Marshal Graziani's army in the Cyrenaican deserts in February 1941. Carr was appointed MBE (military) for his role on the staff of 13 Corps, which drove the Italians back beyond Benghazi.

Scarcely had the dust of this campaign settled than Carr was sent to Greece in pursuance of Churchill's somewhat fanciful notion of creating a Balkan front against the Axis. Arriving in the Salonika plain, Carr quickly perceived that the primitive Greek army could in fact be no match in the open field for the mobile columns of the Wehrmacht. He and his sappers did as much as they could to hamper the German advance, blowing up bridges and mining roads. But the British were soon recoiling southwards and Carr was eventually evacuated to Alexandria in the destroyer *Zulu* in May 1941.

By June he was back in battle, this time against the French in Syria. In a bitterly fought campaign the forces of the Vichy were faced by their Free French compatriots, as well as by British, Australian, Senegalese and Arab Legion. Carr served with a polyglot force which pursued the Vichy French to Damascus and then swung eastwards to Beirut.

During his time in Syria and the Lebanon, affairs in North Africa had been taking a very different turn, with the arrival of Rommel and the Afrika Korps and when he went back to the theatre in September 1942 it was with



Ralph Carr, left, and the painting by Terence Cuneo of sappers under fire, clearing minefields at Alamein, October 23, 1942

Axis forces in Egypt once more, poised only 35 miles from Alexandria. But the tide was about to turn for the last time.

At El Alamein, Carr commanded a new sapper unit, the 21st Field Squadron, which found itself in the thick of the fighting on the first night of the battle as it tried to clear mines which were holding up an infantry advance. A dramatic painting by Terence Cuneo well captures the desperation of the situation as both attacking infantry and sappers took heavy casualties from a hail of 88mm shells and machinegun fire. Nevertheless, in this and in the subsequent pursuit of the Afrika Korps, Carr's unit thoroughly distinguished itself in the numbers of mines it cleared, and he was awarded an immediate DSO. Later in the North African campaign he received the first of his wounds when he trod on a German three-pronged antipersonnel mine. Fortunately he instantly realised what he had done and was able (as he had always advised his men) to throw himself flat on the ground, thus escaping almost unscathed and confining the effects of the subsequent burst to damage to his leg.

In November 1943 Carr got back to Britain for the first time since he had been on leave in 1938. But he was soon in training with the 51st (Highland)

Division for the projected Normandy invasion. From D-Day until the end of his war in February 1945 he was involved in some of the toughest fighting with the division — on the Orne bridgehead, in the battle for Caen and in the bitterly contested slog through Holland in the vilest of weather. He was also a part of the countermeasures against Hitler's *Herbstnebel* (Autumn Fog) offensive in the Ardennes in December 1944, and fought in the internecine battle to clear the Reichswald, west of the Rhine. The last was largely a sapper battle, and for his leadership in completing a bridge over the River Niers under heavy shellfire Carr won a Bar to his DSO.

He never really recovered from the severe head wound he sustained shortly afterwards. In 1946 he took an engineering course to try to ease himself back into his Army career. But he still required hospital treatment at intervals and after two more appointments on the Intelligence staff he finally retired from the Army on a disability pension in 1951.

Thereafter he farmed in the North of England, breeding cattle and growing crops. He published his memoir, *A Sapper's War*, in 1994.

His wife Hester predeceased him and he is survived by two daughters.

PAMELA MASON

Pamela Mason, author and actress, died in Beverly Hills, California, on June 29 aged 80. She was born in London on March 10, 1916.

THERE could hardly have been a greater contrast between Pamela Mason and her former husband, the actor James Mason. Where he was taciturn, she was garrulous, to the extent that she was once described as having been "vaccinated" with a phonograph needle. He was a Cambridge graduate with a degree in architecture; she left her private school at the age of nine, and claimed that "education only confuses the mind". Yet despite their superficial differences, the couple stayed together for 23 years before their divorce in 1964.

Pamela had been raised by her wealthy businessman father to make the most of her talents. She wrote novels, screenplays, acted and hosted chat shows. She was christened Pamela Helen Ostrer, and was, like many actresses of her generation, deliberately vague about her age. Her father was one of two Jewish brothers from the East End of London, who founded and built up one of the greatest textile businesses in the country.

Isidore Ostrer also had interests in films, and his position no doubt eased his precocious daughter into her first screen role in 1934. That she succeeded so well in it was entirely because of her own merits. Not only did she look good, but her vivacious personality made her positively shimmer on screen. The cameraman on *Jew Sues* was Roy Kellino, with whom she developed a youthful passion. They were married soon afterwards.

She met Mason in 1939. He was then an up-and-coming actor, and a former architect, who had already caught the eye of Alexander Korda. He came to her through the Kellinos and moved in with them. They pooled their resources and Pamela and Mason together wrote the screenplay for *I Met a Murderer*. They also took the two leading roles when it came to the shooting, Mason playing the murderer, and Pamela the girl he meets on the run. Roy Kellino directed and shot the film, doing his best work photographing them together. Sadly for him the electricity between the actors on set was being duplicated away from it.



Mason and Pamela fell passionately in love and were married in 1941, after her amicable divorce from Kellino.

By 1946 James Mason was the leading star of the British cinema and Pamela moved with him to Hollywood, together with their 12 cats. She had already begun writing, publishing her first novel, *This Little Hand*, in 1942. *Del Palma* in 1944, and *The Blinds are Down* (1946). She resumed her acting career, appearing with her husband in the Broadway production of *Bathsheba* and in about twenty film roles over the years.

During the 1950s the couple appeared on television in the *James Mason Show*, and Pamela, fittingly for such a garrulous woman, went on to host two talk shows of her own: *Pamela Mason Show* and *The Weaker Sex*. It was about this time that she published *The Female Pleasure Hunt*, and *Marriage is the First Step Towards Divorce*, which proved prophetic. Her divorce settlement with Mason made her a million dollars and was, he later complained, the reason why he subsequently had to appear in so many bad films. Pamela blamed the marital breakdown, simply, on two people growing apart. Mason had become more

ambitious, less reserved himself as the years went by. He no longer needed his extrovert wife to hold the floor for him: "I think I rather wore James down," she said.

There was one final chapter to the very public career of Pamela Mason. In 1975 her father died, leaving her the major shareholder of the Yorkshire-based Illingworth Morris Group — which employed around 10,000 people — making her one of the most powerful women in textiles. She displayed aggressive business instincts and a competitive spirit. However, she also made some questionable decisions and her autocratic management style did not make her much liked in the business. By 1981, her relations with the rest of her cousins and stepsons, who also had stakes in the business, had degenerated to breaking point. She sold up her shares, for a good price, and was voted off the board.

She continued to live in her rambling mansion in Beverly Hills (the drive became known as Pamela Drive). Her last screen role was in the 1985 television production of *My Wicked, Wicked Ways*: the *Legend of Errol Flynn*. James Mason died in 1984 and Pamela Mason is survived by their son and daughter.

RONNIE PRICE

Ronnie Price, jazz pianist, died on June 25 aged 72. He was born on August 9, 1923.

MUCH more than a jazz pianist, Ronnie Price was probably one of the most versatile musicians on the session scene for more than three decades. Heard on numerous television themes such as *Ever Decreasing Circles*, the face might not have been familiar but the hands certainly were. They were seen weekly on one of television's most popular light entertainment shows, *Name That Tune*.

Encouraged by his parents (his mother played piano in their local church), Ronald Frederick Price took his first piano lessons at the age of eight and was soon entering and winning "Go As You Please" talent contests in the Manchester area.

On leaving school at 15 he became an apprentice draughtsman in an engineering factory, in what was to be designated a deferred occupa-



tion on the outbreak of the Second World War. During the war years he formed his own sextet playing dance gigs in the Manchester area and in

1947 turned professional to join the Teddy Foster Band. His younger brother Derek, who had opted for the drums, soon joined him and after a

couple of years the two of them moved on and up, to what was one of the top jazz groups of the day, the Tito Burns Sextet. After four years of touring, both at home and abroad, the brothers joined the resident band at the American Services Club in Regents Park, their last shared band before going their separate ways.

According to his brother, Ronnie was always ambitious. Whatever he wanted in life he achieved, and his next move to Sidney Lipton's band at Grosvenor House marked the start of another shift in the upward spiral of his career.

Peter Knight, who was arranging for Sidney Lipton at that time, booked Price for his first studio recording session. This taste of the versatility needed to compete in the session field, prompted him to sign on at the Harrow School of Music to learn more about classical music and study arranging.

It was time and money well spent. Price emerged from the school able to read and play

anything that was placed in front of him.

He became one of the elite band of musicians booked for all the top television shows: *The Two Ronnies*, *The Generation Game*, the shows of Val Doonican and Cilla Black as well as sessions in the film studios working with Nelson Riddle, Henry Mancini and John Barry. He can be heard on the sound tracks of the Pink Panther and James Bond films. There were also recording sessions with Sammy Davis Jr from midnight to three in the morning to fit in with the Davis schedule, Andy Williams, Petula Clark, Fred Astaire and Bing Crosby, whom he accompanied on his last appearance at the London Palladium in 1977.

His West End theatre work included *Follies*, in which he was required to act as well as play on stage. *Carmen Jones* at the Old Vic and *Pie* at the Old Vic.

As Anne Shelton's musical director, he was at the annual Not Forgotten Association performances at Buckingham Palace and accompanied Eartha Kitt on many of her cabaret appearances. He earned the reputation of being a sympathetic accompanist as well as a great soloist.

Featured as such with the BBC Concert Orchestra on *Radio 2's Friday Night is Music Night*, he also broadcast on occasions with the BBC Big Band as well as the Don Lusher Big Band, with whom he was the featured pianist up until the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife Jo and two sons from a previous marriage.

ROBERT PRINGLE

Robert Pringle, OBE, co-founder of Nuclear Enterprises, died on June 10 aged 76. He was born on May 2, 1920.

ROBERT PRINGLE was a physicist who made a fortune in the new medical technologies. He had a knack, amounting almost to genius, of developing equipment which would create large markets to be pursued by later and bigger players. His career showed how the academic and the commercial worlds could reinforce each other. His unusual combination of intellectual and commercial abilities allowed him spectacularly to profit from work which he, and others, had pioneered.

Robert William Pringle was born in Edinburgh and educated at George Heriot's School. At Edinburgh University he was the Vans Dunlop scholar in natural philosophy and was appointed a lecturer in 1945, developing an interest in applied nuclear physics and geophysics. In 1947 he went to Manitoba University, as Associate Professor and then Professor of Physics.

North American universities now increasingly control, through tight contracts, the commercial applications of staff research. But in 1956, in those more informal days,

Pringle was able to return to Edinburgh with two Canadian colleagues and set up Nuclear Enterprises (NE) of which he was chairman and managing director. The company specialised in nucleonic instrumentation and medical diagnostics and developed an electronic body scanner which became widely used. The company twice won the Queen's Award to Industry.

EMI, at that time active in medical diagnostics, acquired control of NE in 1976. It was particularly interested in NE's non-invasive diagnostic scanners using ultra-sound. These complemented the cat-scanner developed in the EMI laboratories by a 1979 Nobel prizewinner Sir Godfrey Hounsfield. But speculations proved both expensive and ultimately unsuccessful.

Thorn EMI, as the merged company became in 1979, decided to get out of this sector and as part of a general rationalisation NE was sold to its management, now headquartered at Beemham, Berkshire, in 1987. Market shifts drove the successor company, NE Technology, in new directions. The Edinburgh site was retained as a manufacturing plant but closed in 1995 after NE had been acquired by the French Compagnie de St Gobin. It was at this time that

Pringle finally sold his stake and moved as a tax exile to Monaco.

He served on many committees, including science research councils, the Scottish council of the CBI and Edinburgh University Court. He timed his trips home — rationed by tax restrictions — to coincide with important rugby games. He had been a talented hooker in his youth, playing at district level and, though a trialist, just missing an international cap. He was president of Manitoba Rugby Union and rugby also gave him an excuse to entertain his friends at his house in the Avenue Princesse Grace in Monte Carlo, where he organised the sevens in 1987.

He was a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and Canada, publishing papers on nuclear spectroscopy and nuclear geophysics in British and American journals. His other great passions were golf and book-collecting, and he collaborated on a book on 20th-century Scottish bank notes, of which there were colourful multiplicity before amalgamations thinned the number of indigenous institutions to a handful.

He is survived by his wife Carol, whom he married in 1948, and by three sons and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANIMALS IN NEED
Please help us save companion animals in need of homes. We are looking for people who want to adopt a cat or dog. Please contact us for more information. We are a charity and all adoptions are free.

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In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, W.C.2A 9LL. Notice is hereby given that the following proceedings have been commenced in the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, W.C.2A 9LL.

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NEWS

Carey's crusade upsets teachers

The Archbishop of Canterbury has clashed with teachers after launching a crusade to stop the moral and spiritual decline of the nation. Dr George Carey attacked the view that morality was a matter of taste and complained that God was being banished to the realm of a private hobby. Children needed to be shown the difference between right and wrong, he said. Page 1

BA walkout could cost £40 million a day

British Airways began drawing up emergency plans to keep its fleet of 300 planes in the air during the summer after its pilots said they would go ahead with an all-out strike over pay from July 16. A walkout by more than 3,000 pilots and first officers could cost the company up to £40 million a day. Page 1

Apostate faces death

A Kuwaiti Islamic court has effectively sentenced a businessman to death for converting from Islam to Christianity. Page 1

Breakdown warning

Breakdown organisations have been warned that they could be breaking the law if they give priority to rescuing lone. Page 1

Devolution attacked

John Major tore into Labour's plans for a Scottish Parliament, accusing Tony Blair of "grubbing around for votes". Page 2

Horse race stopped

A judge told a mother who has spent hundreds of thousands of pounds to further her daughter's Olympic equestrian ambitions to reign in her spending. Page 3

Care cut blocked

A council's attempt to save money by cutting care for a disabled child has been blocked by the High Court. Page 7

Madman faces Antichrist in Ecuador

Both are of Lebanese extraction, one styles himself *El Loco* (the madman), while his opponent campaigns as the "Antichrist", and polls have them running neck and neck in tomorrow's Ecuador elections. Page 15

Freight plan to halt

A plan for a freight railway line from the Midlands to the Channel Tunnel that has blighted thousands of homes in its path is likely to be killed off by MPs. Page 11

End of the line

The head of France's railways was remanded in custody over allegations of fraud. Page 13

Double vision

CNN, smarting over loss of coverage of the Games, is to cover the Olympics from the roof of an Atlanta bar. Page 15

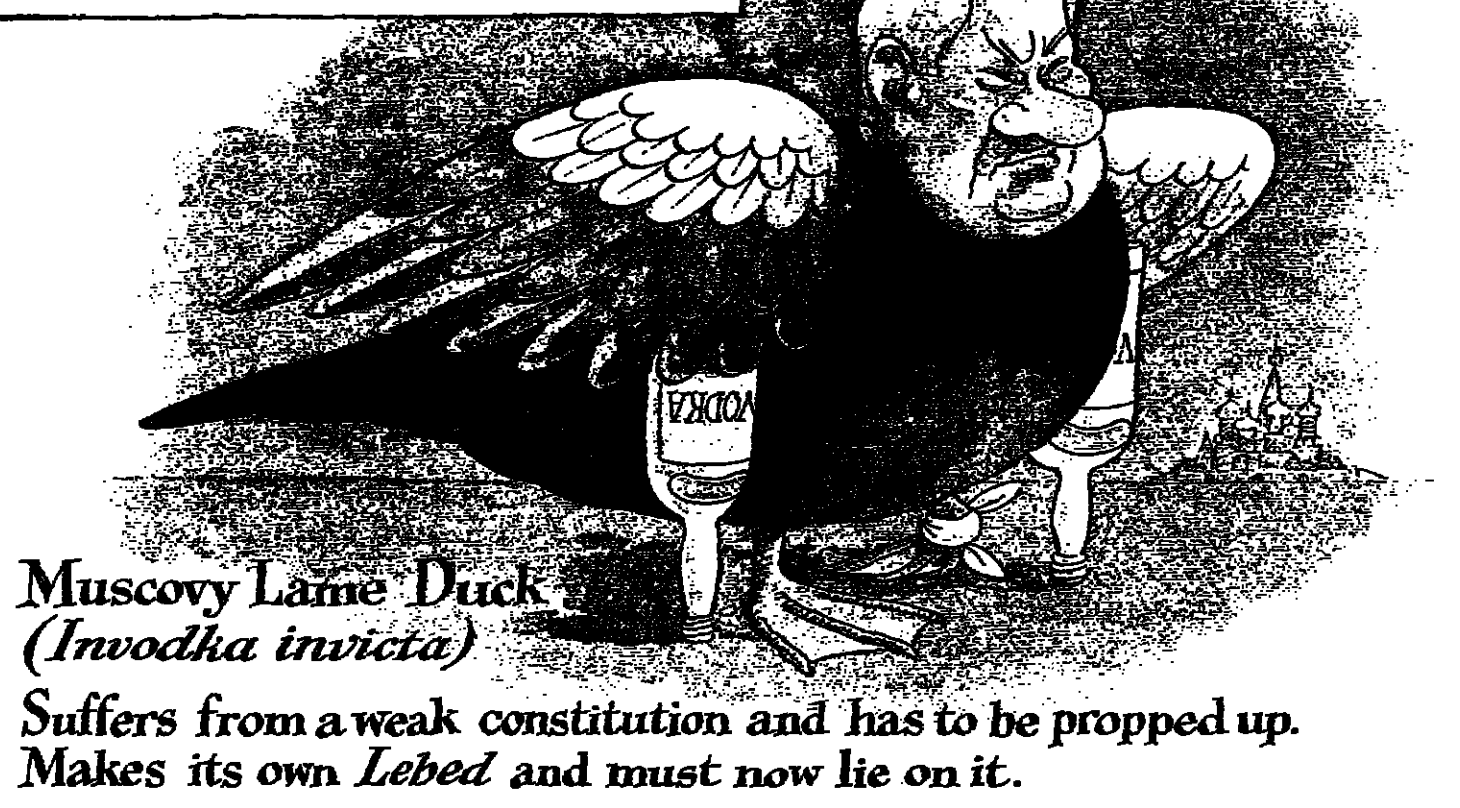
Canadian Army shock

Canadians are shocked at the behaviour of their soldiers during a peacekeeping mission in Somalia three years ago. Page 16

Border détente

With the collapse of Soviet communism and reforms in China, tensions are now easing in Manchuria. Page 17

NATURE NOTES



Muscovy Lame Duck (Invodha invicta) Suffers from a weak constitution and has to be propped up. Makes its own Lebed and must now lie on it.

OPINION

The honourable wage

Britons may not love their politicians but someone has to do the job and it should be treated properly. Page 23

Mandate for Israel

If Mr Netanyahu is to fulfill his pledge to negotiate from strength and continue these welcome developments, he must stamp his authority on his Government. Page 23

Sonne sacrifice

New college loan to monarch: Becket casket; St George: divided by sport. Page 23

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins

The Archbishop of Canterbury had a fit of morality after Tony Blair had a fit of ideology and John Major covered the Scots with love bites. Page 22

Jonathan Milsky

The 75th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party in China was greeted coolly in Peking. Page 22

Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Carr

War-time sapper: Pamela Mason, author and actress; Ronnie Price, jazz pianist. Page 25

ARTS

No label

The artist formerly known as Prince has now broken away from his record company, Warner's. Page 21

Opera for all

Bringing down ticket prices isn't enough. Covent Garden's productions must appear on television. Page 19

Long night

The Young Vic has produced a fine new staging of Eugene O'Neill's classic *Long Day's Journey into Night*. Page 19

Five on stage

Kurt Vonnegut's novel *Slaughterhouse-5* has been staged as an opera. Page 20

BUSINESS

National Lottery

One of Camelot's five executive directors is cashing in his chips and leaving. Page 27

Suing Bellwinch

The building group, is suing the widow of a former chief executive who saved the company from collapse. Page 27

Pearl Assurance

announced that its shareholders were entitled to a payout of nearly £1 billion. Page 27

Markets

The FT-SE 100 index fell 17.4 points to close at 3743.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 86.8 to 86.7. Page 30

SPORT

Cricket

England were 32 for no wicket in reply to India's first innings total of 521 in the final Test at Trent Bridge. Page 52

Tennis

Steffi Graf will be seeking her seventh Wimbledon title when she meets Arantxa Sánchez Vicario in the women's singles final. Page 50

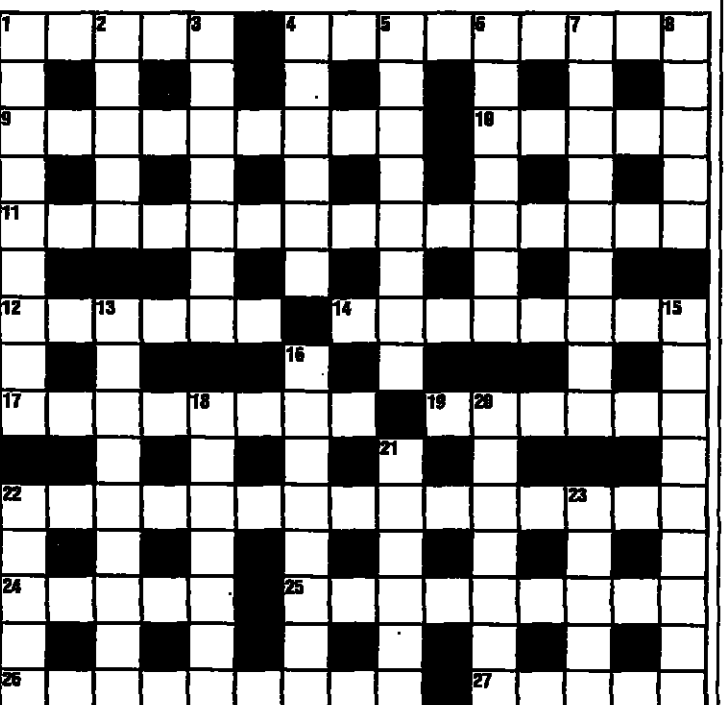
Football

The chief executive of the PFA warned that the influx of foreign players into the Premier League could stifle the growth of home talent. Page 51

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,213

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and For Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



ACROSS

- 1 King wearing soldier's coat (5).
- 2 Convincing person one's liable to be fired (9).
- 3 Preoccupation with school reunion meeting? (9).
- 4 Canvass support, so to speak, as moderate Liberal (5).
- 5 Manifest envy as point in agreement gets cut by solicitor (3,4,5,3).
- 6 Pretty evasive about deceased elm? (6).
- 7 Soak head for lavish growth (8).
- 8 Hear on radio German is captured by Russian leader (6,2).
- 9 Who's organised stream? (6).
- 10 Hypocrite cheers up - he'd wilt otherwise (6,9).
- 11 Hank makes flying geese (5).
- 12 Gave up being depraved (9).
- 13 Made oneself comfortable in seat row (7,2).
- 14 Stick fork into first of several fruit (5).

DOWN

- 1 Established state of French language (9).
- 2 Try again to pass others - one's placed near the end (5).
- 3 London team succeeded in sport - venue on lake (7).
- 4 Spire collapsed on top of terrified vicar (6).
- 5 Second smuggler appearing for trial (6,2).
- 6 Heat urn furiously - grub up! (7).
- 7 Cheating pretty girl one way (9).
- 8 Fired again, taking money in bank hold-up (5).
- 9 Wrongly advise girl, not at altogether straight (9).
- 10 Break into sale - robber's beginning to cash in (9).
- 11 Not the assistance to expect from one's second? (5,3).
- 12 As a city, Rome is always the same (7).
- 13 Everyone used rough hints (7).
- 14 Bad weather odds on? That's a wrench (6).
- 15 Stinging attack from this rugby side? (5).
- 16 Monument female, say, put up (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,207

ZEALOTRY FILLIP
A R B E R W O I
N O B L E B L U E P E T E R
E T A O A S E L A
G A T H E R I N G A N S E R
E T A O A S E L A
B L A S P E M S L I G H T
V I T T S O H
S E C O N D P R E S I D E
C N O O P A
O C H R E M A T C H W O O D
F A G A S E L A
F O R T I T U D I N E
E B A N O L O H
R E M O T E A T P O L I N E

Solution to Puzzle No 20,212

M U F T I W I S E C R A C K
E O I E A U O
T A L L O R D E R V I S T A
A O L E V I T L
A N D A U M I S T A R I A
W I T E C Y A
O L I V E G R E E N C L I P
L R O M L I O
K I L T P A L A T I N A T E
J E D N G S
P R U D E N C E R E D S E A
G O I L S
A E G I S O V E R S H O O T
N E H T A E F E R
G O D F A T H E R D E F E R

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: D Arthur, Hull; P Mayes, Whaddon, Milton Keynes; J C Silk, London; A Scott, Glasgow; D A Higgins, Teddington, Middlesex.

LATEST WEATHER CALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
Greater London	702
Greater London	703
Greater London	704
Greater London	705
Greater London	706
Greater London	707
Greater London	708
Greater London	709
Greater London	710
Greater London	711
Greater London	712
Greater London	713
Greater London	714
Greater London	715
Greater London	716
Greater London	717
Greater London	718
Greater London	719
Greater London	720
Greater London	721
Greater London	722
Greater London	723
Greater London	724
Greater London	725
Greater London	726
Greater London	727

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
East/Surrey/Sussex/Bucks/Chesh/Dorset	733
West/Surrey/Sussex/Bucks/Chesh/Dorset	734
M25 London Orbital only	735
National traffic and roadworks	736
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.	

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY Sun sets: 4.52 am Sun sets: 9.19 pm

MOON sets: 11.52 am Moon rises: 11.52 am

Last sunset tomorrow: 4.52 am Last sunrise tomorrow: 9.19 am

Edinburgh 9.56 pm to 4.38 am Manchester 9.37 pm to 4.51 am

Perth 9.32 pm to 5.21 am

TOMORROW Sun rises: 4.53 am Sun sets: 9.18 pm

MOON sets: 1.06 pm Moon rises: 12.05 am

Last sunrise today: 9.18 am Last sunset today: 4.54 am

Edinburgh 9.57 pm to 4.39 am Manchester 9.37 pm to 4.51 am

Perth 9.32 pm to 5.21 am

HIGHER TIDES

TODAY AM HT PM HT

London Bridge	4:52	4:22	5:41	6:9
Abbeville	10:55	12:9	11:16	12:11
Bellport	3:38	3:7	3:17	3:3
Cardiff	10:39	11:4	11:08	11:3
Devonport	9:41	9:2	9:56	9:5
Dover	2:30	6:5	2:53	6:7
Dublin (N Wall)	2:59	4:2	3:46	3:8
Falmouth	3:22	4:7	3:23	3:19
Greenock	3:53	3:6	4:34	3:3
Hawthorn	8:47	7:6	10:30	7:0
Hull (Albert D)	9:44	9:0	10:09	9:0
King's Lynn	9:42	8:9	10:13	8:2
Liverpool	9:18	8:8	9:54	8:5
Lough	2:45	8:6	3:13	9:0
Loughs	1:10	2:4	1:08	2:9
Margate	9:15	8:4	9:48	8:7
Midford Haven	10:01	8:6	10:25	8:7
Quebec	9:46	8:4	9:10	8:5
Oban	9:15	8:1	9:48	8:3
Perth	9:18	8:2	9:44	8:4
Portsmouth	10:35	9:9	10:50	9:0
Portsmouth	2:49	4:7	3:25	4:7
Southampton	2:43	6:1	3:14	6:2
Swansea	7:23	5:4	8:05	5:1
Tees	10:36	9:1	10:30	9:1
Wexford	3:13	4:3	3:01	4:2

Copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 21C (70F); lowest day temp: Southampton, 15C (59F). Highest rainfall: Edinburgh, 1.4mm (0.05in); lowest rainfall: London, 0.0mm (0.0in). Highest wind speed: Brixton, 12 mph (19 km/h).

FORECAST

General: central and eastern England will have a dry morning with bright or sunny spells. Western areas should start with showers. During the day these will spread east to remaining parts, and some will be heavy. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will be showery. Central and eastern Scotland are likely to be showery after a bright start. Northern Scotland will be mostly cloudy with rain.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E England: dry with bright or sunny spells at first. Showers developing later, some heavy. Wind west to northwesterly light to moderate. Max 19C (66F).

Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N, NE England, Borders, E Anglia, Dumfries & Galloway, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: dry start with bright or sunny spells, but

showers soon developing, some heavy. Wind west to northwesterly moderate. Max 18C (64F).

SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: sunny spells and showers, some heavy. Wind west to northwesterly moderate, locally fresh. Max 17C (63F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: mostly cloudy with showery rain. Wind light to moderate west becoming northwesterly. Max 14C (57F).

NW Scotland: cloudy with showery rain, slowly becoming brighter from the west. Wind moderate to fresh west to northwesterly. Max 15C (59F).

Outlook: sunny spells, showers.

Pollen forecast: low in Scotland; low to moderate in London; moderate in N England, N Ireland, Midlands, E Anglia, Wales, S East, S West.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; de=dust storm; du=dust; f=fog; h=haze; l=light rain; m=moderate rain; n=no rain; o=overcast; s=sunny; t=thunder; w=wind; x=showers; y=very; z=zero.

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